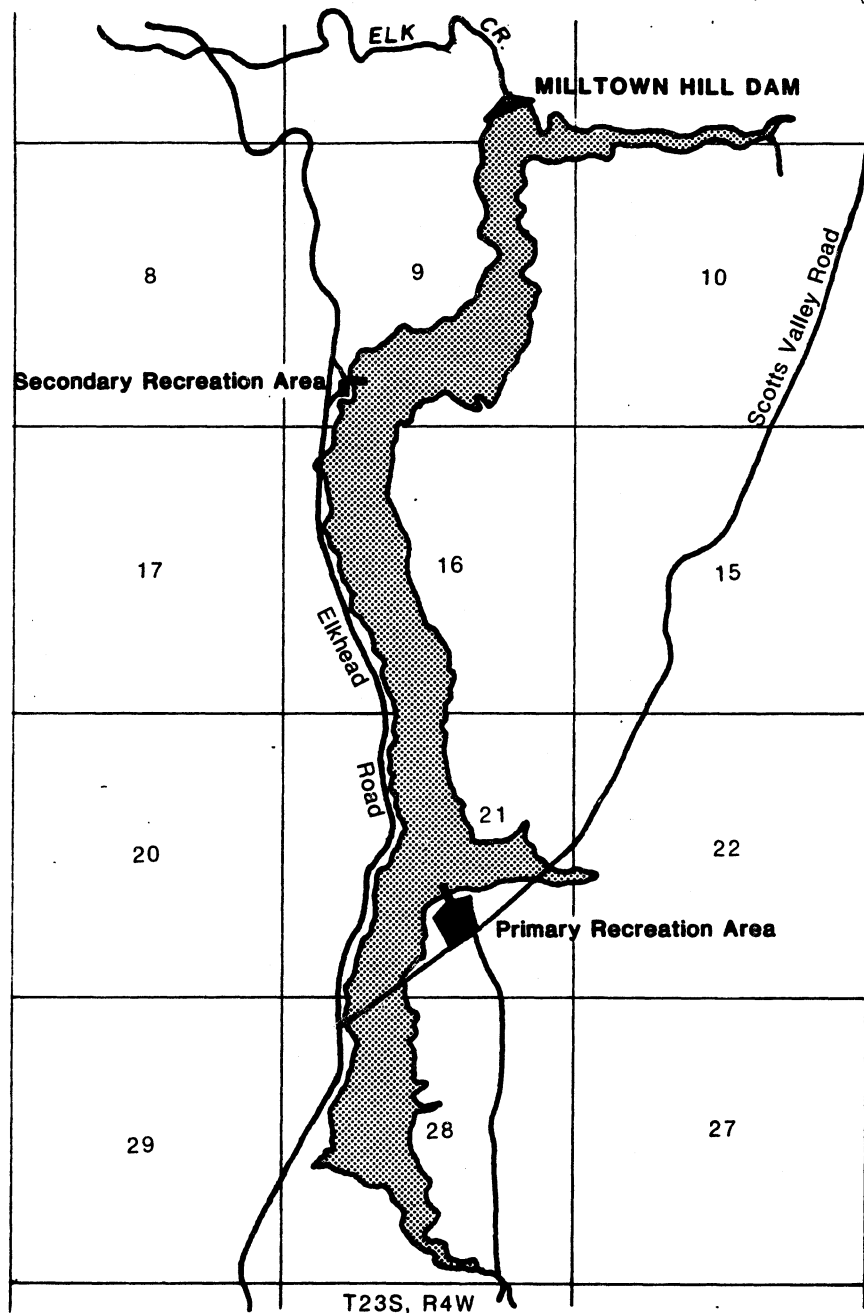


MILLTOWN HILL PROJECT

DOUGLAS COUNTY, OREGON

FINAL

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

FINAL
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

MILLTOWN HILL PROJECT
ELK CREEK SUBBASIN, UMPQUA RIVER BASIN
DOUGLAS COUNTY, OREGON

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
IN COOPERATION WITH
THE ROSEBURG DISTRICT BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
THE PORTLAND DISTRICT U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

Under provisions of the Small Reclamation Projects Act (Public Law 84-984, as amended), Douglas County has applied to the Bureau of Reclamation for a Federal loan to develop a dam, reservoir, and related facilities at the Milltown Hill site on Elk Creek.

This Environmental Impact Statement addresses the construction and operation of the proposed Milltown Hill Project. The project consists of a 186-foot high dam and 24,143-acre foot reservoir on Elk Creek which would provide regulated flows of water for irrigation of up to 4,661 acres of arable land, storage and distribution of water to the cities of Drain and Yoncalla and the community of Rice Hill, allow municipal expansion and industrial diversification, provide a reliable source of water for rural domestic use, provide opportunities to improve fish and wildlife habitat, improve water quality, and provide new water-related recreational facilities. It would also provide limited flood control in and near the city of Drain, and provide the opportunity to secure 767 additional acres of habitat for the Columbian white-tailed deer as a project mitigation measure. A portion of the stored water would be released directly into Elk Creek to enhance water quality and anadromous fish habitat, and to meet the out-of-stream needs of municipal, industrial, and agricultural users. The remainder of the stored water would be released into a pipeline distribution system which would improve municipal, industrial and irrigation water supplies to Scotts Valley and Yoncalla Valley, and provide an additional water supply for rural domestic use in these areas.

The draft environmental impact statement was filed with the Environmental Protection Agency and made available to the public on December 11, 1991 (DES 91-33). The draft statement was also used to obtain public review and comment on wetlands protection (Executive Order 11990) and floodplain management (Executive Order 11988).

The final environmental impact statement incorporates updates in impact and economic analyses and presents the results of agency and public review of the draft environmental impact statement. Based on that review, it has been determined that (1) no significant changes are required in the proposed project and (2) the analyses presented in the draft environmental impact statement remain valid as updated in the final statement.

Federal decision on the proposed project will not be made until at least 30 days after this final environmental statement has been filed with the Environmental Protection Agency and the "Notice of Availability" has appeared in the Federal Register. During that 30-day period, written comments on the content of the final environmental impact statement will be accepted at the address shown below. These comments will be considered in the Federal decision process.

For further information regarding the processing or content of this document, contact:

Regional Environmental Officer
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Box 043 550 West Fort Street
Boise, Idaho 83724

(208) 334-9442

Statement Number: FES 92-19

Filing Date: August 14, 1992

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SUMMARY

Purpose

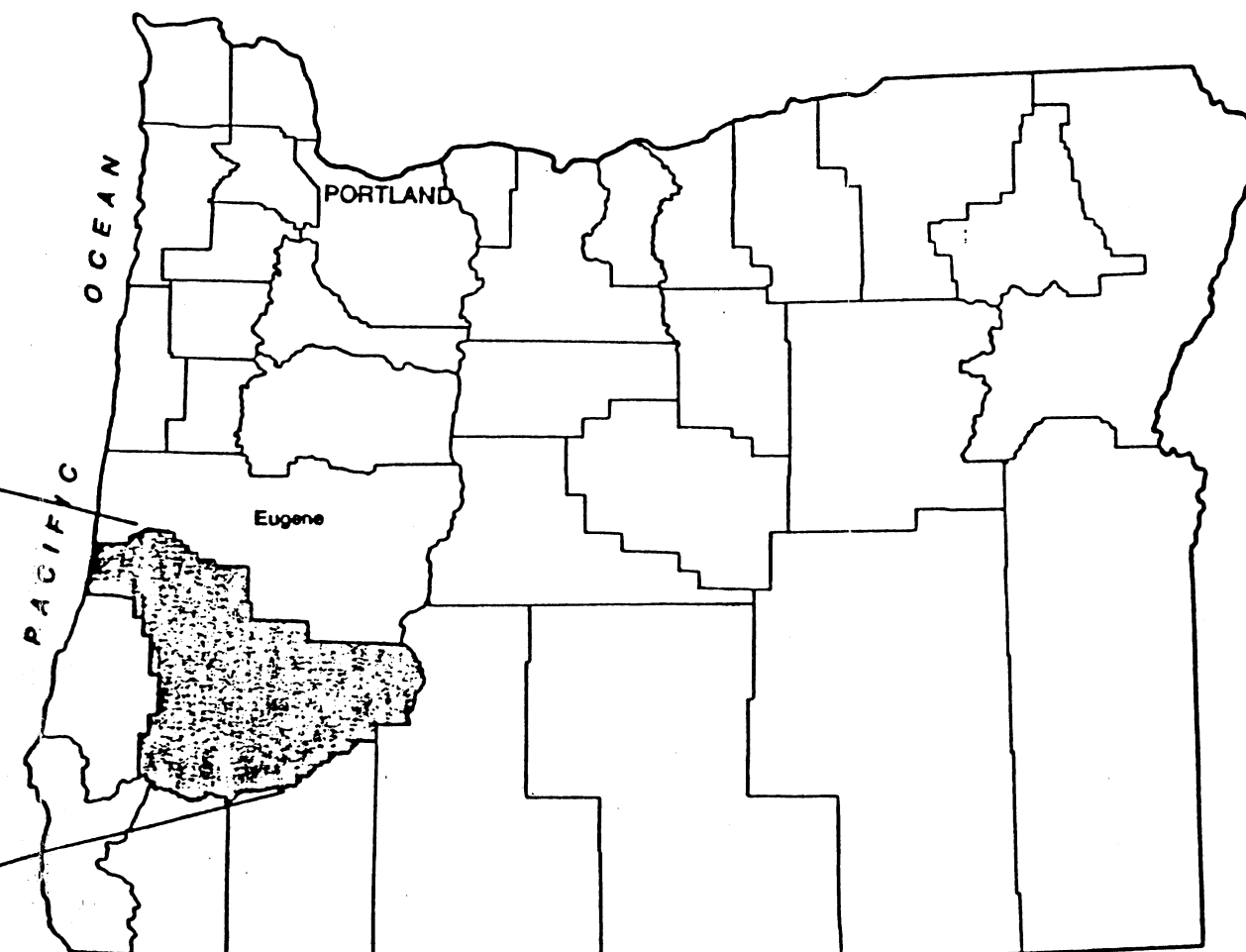
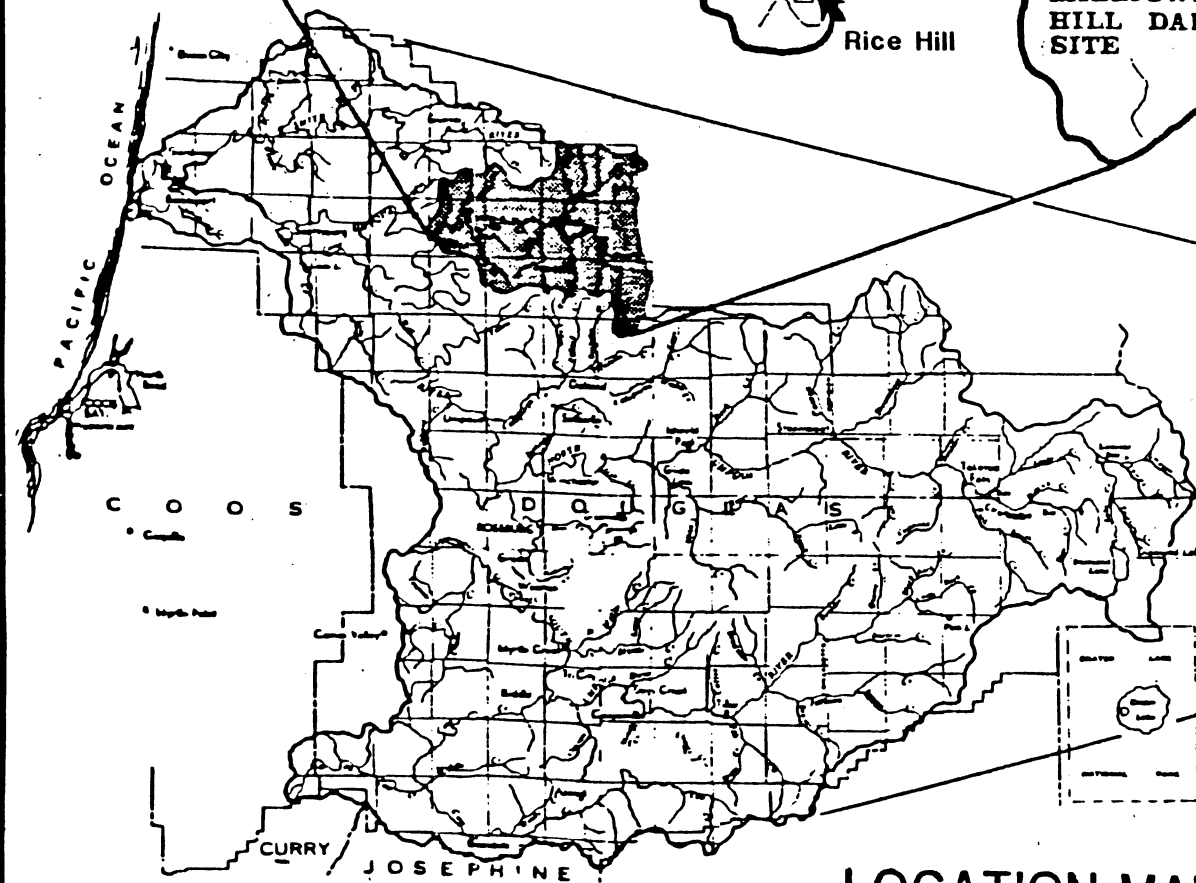
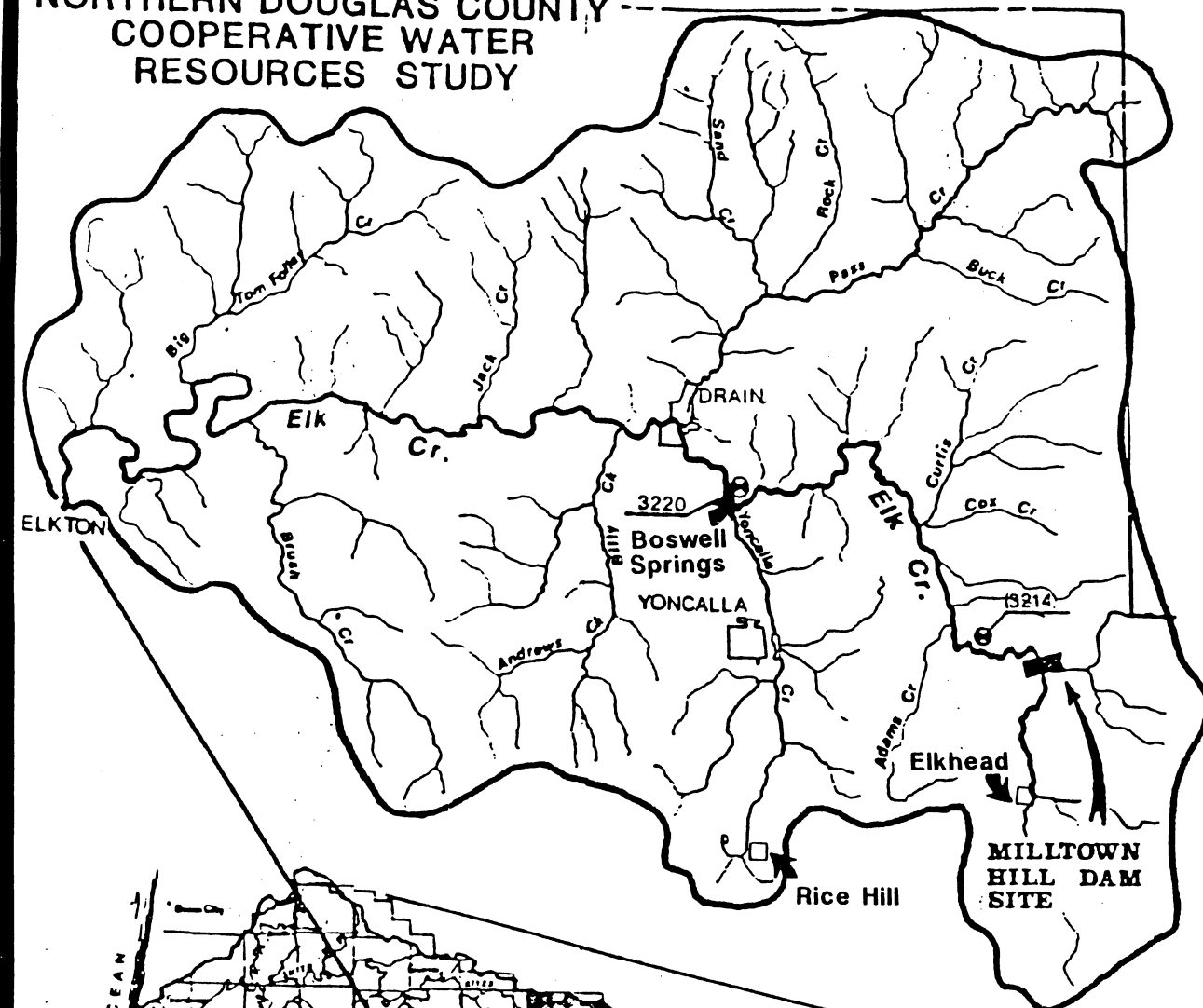
The purpose of the Milltown Hill Project, a 24,143 acre-foot reservoir and pipeline distribution system 19.6 miles long in the Elk Creek subbasin (Umpqua River Basin) of western Oregon (Figure S-1), is to fulfill a portion of the existing and projected needs of urban and rural water users. The project would:

- Provide increased water supplies during the growing season through an irrigation system, to provide a full supply of irrigation water for up to 2,601 acres of arable land in Yoncalla and Scotts Valley, and allow pumping of water directly from Elk Creek to provide a full supply up to an additional 1,163 acres of arable lands along Elk Creek. A supplemental supply would be provided to 897 acres.
- Provide for the storage and distribution of water to the cities of Yoncalla and Drain and the community of Rice Hill, allowing for municipal expansion and industrial diversification.
- Provide a reliable source of water for rural domestic use in the areas served by the pipeline system.
- Provide opportunities to improve fish and wildlife habitat.
- Improve water quality in Elk Creek and Yoncalla Creek.
- Provide new water-related recreational facilities.
- Provide limited flood control, in and near the city of Drain.

Need

Historically, Douglas County has relied on the forest products industry to be its main economic contributor. Timber receipts account for 70 percent of the County's revenue. In recent decades the forest products industry has been subject to unpredictable supplies and markets for its products. This condition results in seasonal and sometimes protracted unemployment, which in turn causes significant losses of revenue for the County. When such conditions exist, the County is unable to provide continuing optimal services to its residents. Douglas County has, for decades, searched for means to diversify its industrial base in the hope of stabilizing its economy. In 1985, the Bureau of

NORTHERN DOUGLAS COUNTY COOPERATIVE WATER RESOURCES STUDY



OREGON

LOCATION MAP
FIGURE S-1

Reclamation and the Douglas County Water Resources Survey initiated the Northern Douglas County Cooperative Water Resources Study to find solutions to the resource needs in the Elk Creek subbasin.

The primary socio-economic problem in the Elk Creek subbasin is the lack of opportunities for industrial growth and diversification. This problem has been on-going for decades. The area has historically been dependent on one industry, the forest products industry. The privately-owned, old growth timber base supplying the resource for the industry has been almost completely depleted after forty to fifty years of harvesting. Changes in wood processing techniques, competition for government-owned timber, high stumpage and processing costs, and unpredictable markets have forced most processing plants in the Elk Creek subbasin out of business. The future of this industry remains uncertain, especially since recent region-wide controversy has been generated over the future management of old-growth forests and the protection of the northern spotted owl, a federally designated threatened species.

The tourist industry, an important economic factor in Douglas County, is not a viable income producing alternative in the Elk Creek subbasin. There are no destination resorts to attract tourists and water-related recreational opportunities are not available in the Elk Creek subbasin. There are no federal or state parks.

The economy of the area is not likely to improve unless opportunities are made available for industrial diversification. The Milltown Hill Project presents one opportunity. The key to industrial and economic diversity is the availability of water. Cooperative investigations between Douglas County and the Bureau of Reclamation have found that the area suffers from the lack of year-round supplies of quality water for municipal, industrial and irrigation use. Lack of water has inhibited economic growth in the Elk Creek subbasin. Construction and operation of the Milltown Hill project would store and supply the necessary amounts of water for municipal growth, industrial diversification, and improved agricultural development. The project would improve anadromous fish habitat, water-related recreational activities, and provide some flood control. Water quality would also be improved.

As a result of the findings of these studies, Douglas County applied to the Bureau of Reclamation for a loan under the Small Reclamation Projects Act (SRPA) (P.L. 84-984) to construct and operate the Milltown Hill Project. This action was taken in May, 1991.

Alternatives Considered but not Evaluated

Both structural and non-structural alternatives for alleviating water shortages were investigated. Selection of alternatives to be investigated was based, primarily, on the criteria of water availability and yield, water needs of agricultural and urban areas, environmental impacts, cost-effectiveness, and acceptability to the public.

Storage sites investigated on tributaries of Elk Creek and on Elk Creek mainstem are summarized in Table S-1 and are shown in Figure S-2. Other structural alternatives considered were interbasin transfer of water and ground water pumping. Non-structural alternatives considered were purchase of irrigation water and conservation. These latter alternatives were discarded because it would be counter to the proposed diversification of a water-use employment base, costs were prohibitive or water yield was not sufficient. In addition, active conservation programs are in effect in both Drain and Yoncalla, and additional reasonable measures would not significantly affect water use.

Preferred Alternative

Project Features

The preferred alternative, the Milltown Hill Project, would meet all of the municipal and industrial water needs through the year 2030, and perhaps beyond. Instream habitat needs for anadromous fish would be enhanced between the dam and the mouth of Elk Creek. Livestock would be fenced from riparian areas needing improvement. Gravel would be deposited in Elk Creek to improve spawning conditions. Locations of these areas needing improvement have been tentatively identified (Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report, USFWS, Aug 17, 1990). The irrigation component provides for irrigation of some new lands and supplemental needs. It would not provide enough water to develop all arable lands. However, owner interest surveys show that the preferred alternative would likely meet the water needs of the majority of those interested in irrigation. The preferred alternative would provide a reduction in flood levels in the city of Drain.

The preferred alternative would consist of a 24,143 acre-foot reservoir at river mile 39.4 on Elk Creek. A 186 foot-high dam (structural height) would inundate 681 acres of land at the 775 foot mean sea level (msl) elevation at normal full pool. The reservoir would inundate about 4 1/2 miles of Elk Creek and 2 miles of tributaries (Figures S-2 and S-3).

The total storage capacity of 24,143 acre-feet would be allocated among its principal uses. The allocation includes 937,

Table S-1. Structural and Non-structural Alternatives Investigated.

<u>ALTERNATIVES</u>	<u>FINDINGS</u>
1. <u>Structural</u>	
A. Sites Located on <u>Elk Creek Tributaries</u>	
Billy Creek	-Insufficient water yield -High costs of pumping water to service area in Scotts Valley and Yoncalla Valley.
Adams Creek	-Small yield -Geological conditions would provide for a reservoir of only 2,000 acre-feet; not adequate for service area needs.
Wise Creek	-Inadequate yield. -Slide potential on both abutments.
Shoestring Valley (Walker Creek)	-Yield of only 12,500 acre-feet. -Larger reservoir would be cost prohibitive.
B. Sites Located on <u>Elk Creek Mainstem</u>	
Drain (McClintock)	-Would inundate Scotts Valley service area. -Prohibitive costs of I-5 relocation. -Loss of Scotts Valley service area. -High cost of pumping to service areas in Yoncalla Valley.
Scotts Valley (Elk Creek)	-Would inundate Scotts Valley service area. -Would inundate I-5. -Loss of Scotts Valley service area. -High cost of pumping to Yoncalla Valley service area. -High cost of I-5 relocation
Yoncalla Single Purpose	-Unacceptable to local Douglas County Water Resources Management Plan and the Oregon Water Resources Commission's Basin Program Statement. Would serve the needs of Yoncalla Valley only.
Site 2	-Inadequate reservoir capacity.
Site 4	-Inadequate reservoir capacity.
Site 6	-Geologically inadequate.
Site 8	-Geologically inadequate.
Site 10	-Geologically inadequate.
Site 12 (Preferred Alternative)	-Meets all needs of service areas. Geologically acceptable
Site 14	-Geologically inadequate.
Site 16	-Geologically inadequate, working room for dam construction not adequate.
C. <u>Other Structural</u> <u>Interbasin Transfer</u>	-Institutional constraints. -Inadequate water supply.
Ground Water Pumping	-Inadequate water supply. -High pumping costs.
2. <u>Non-Structural</u>	
Purchase of irrigation	-Counter to diversification of water employment base. -Would apply to Drain only because Yoncalla would have no source.
Conservation	-Active Conservation programs are in effect.

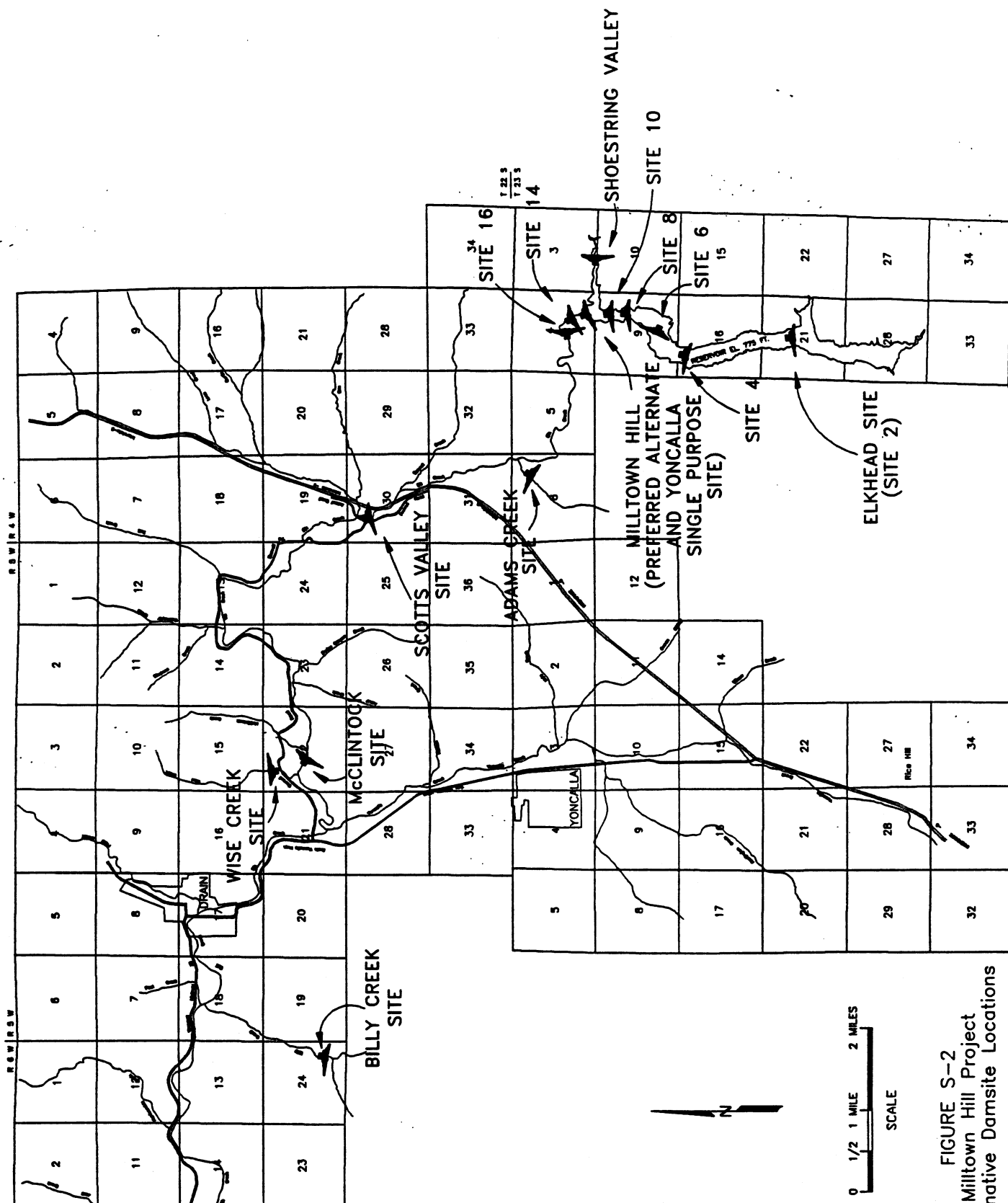


FIGURE S-2
Milltown Hill Project
Alternative Damsite Locations

TOWNSHIP 23 SOUTH, RANGE 4 WEST

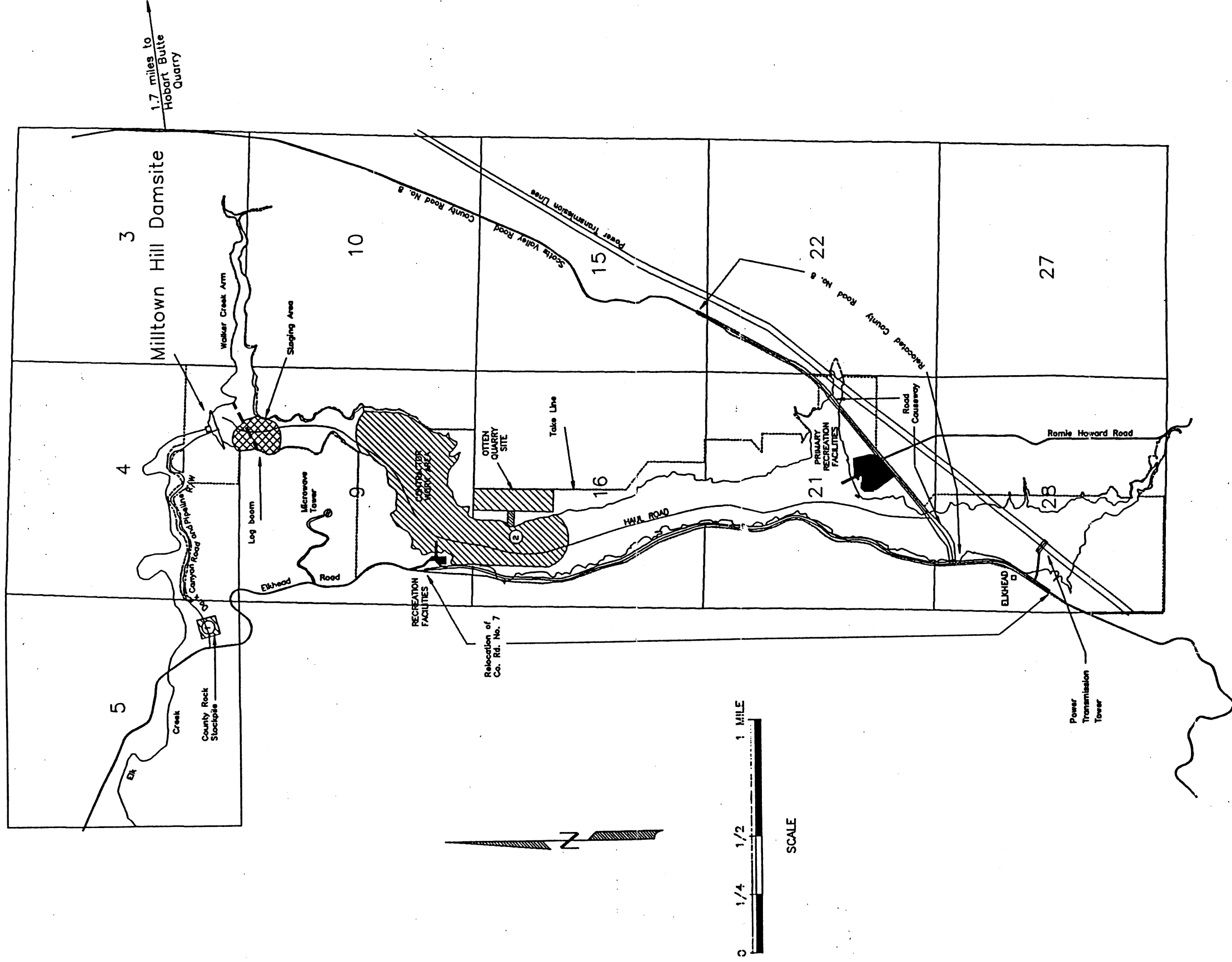


FIGURE S-3
MILLTOWN HILL PROJECT
PROJECT FEATURES

9,654, and 7,737 acre feet, respectively for municipal and industrial development, irrigation releases, and for anadromous fish and water temperature control. The latter two features would provide for improved spawning conditions. Other project facilities would include a microwave tower for remote project operation, recreation facilities, and an 19.6 mile water distribution (pipeline) system (Figure S-4). The pipeline distribution system would allow for a full supply of irrigation water for 2,601 acres in Yoncalla Valley and Scotts Valley. An additional 1,163 acres along Elk Creek would also receive a full supply by pumping directly from Elk Creek. Additionally, 897 acres would receive a supplemental supply by the pipeline or direct pumping. Other project activities would include road relocation (4 miles), a new 1 mile road to the base of the dam, relocation of utilities, and drainage facilities on project lands as needed.

Project Functions

The project would serve the following functions:

• Anadromous Fisheries

The project would store water during high flow periods in late fall, winter, and early spring to meet downstream needs during the irrigation season (April 1- October 30) and for anadromous fish habitat enhancement. Releases would be made for the purposes of municipal and industrial water supply and fish enhancement throughout the year. Irrigation releases would be made during the irrigation season only.

Storage of up to 7,737 acre-feet of water would be reserved to enhance fisheries resources. The actual quantity of water would depend on water year and downstream demands. This water would be used to augment instream flows and provide cooling water to maintain water temperatures within an acceptable range for fisheries resources during summer and fall months. During these months, water temperatures are normally above 65-75 degrees (F) in most portions of Elk Creek. Releases of water at the dam would increase flows in the mainstem during the naturally low flow period of summer and early fall. With control over the temperature of the released water, the cooler water and increased flows would substantially improve rearing habitat for anadromous fish in the mainstem of Elk Creek below the dam. In addition, the Yoncalla Valley pipeline would be used to deliver additional water to the lower 2.5 miles of Yoncalla Creek for stream flow enhancement during the same low flow period. Although irrigation return flows are anticipated, they were not included in the storage reserved for anadromous fish.

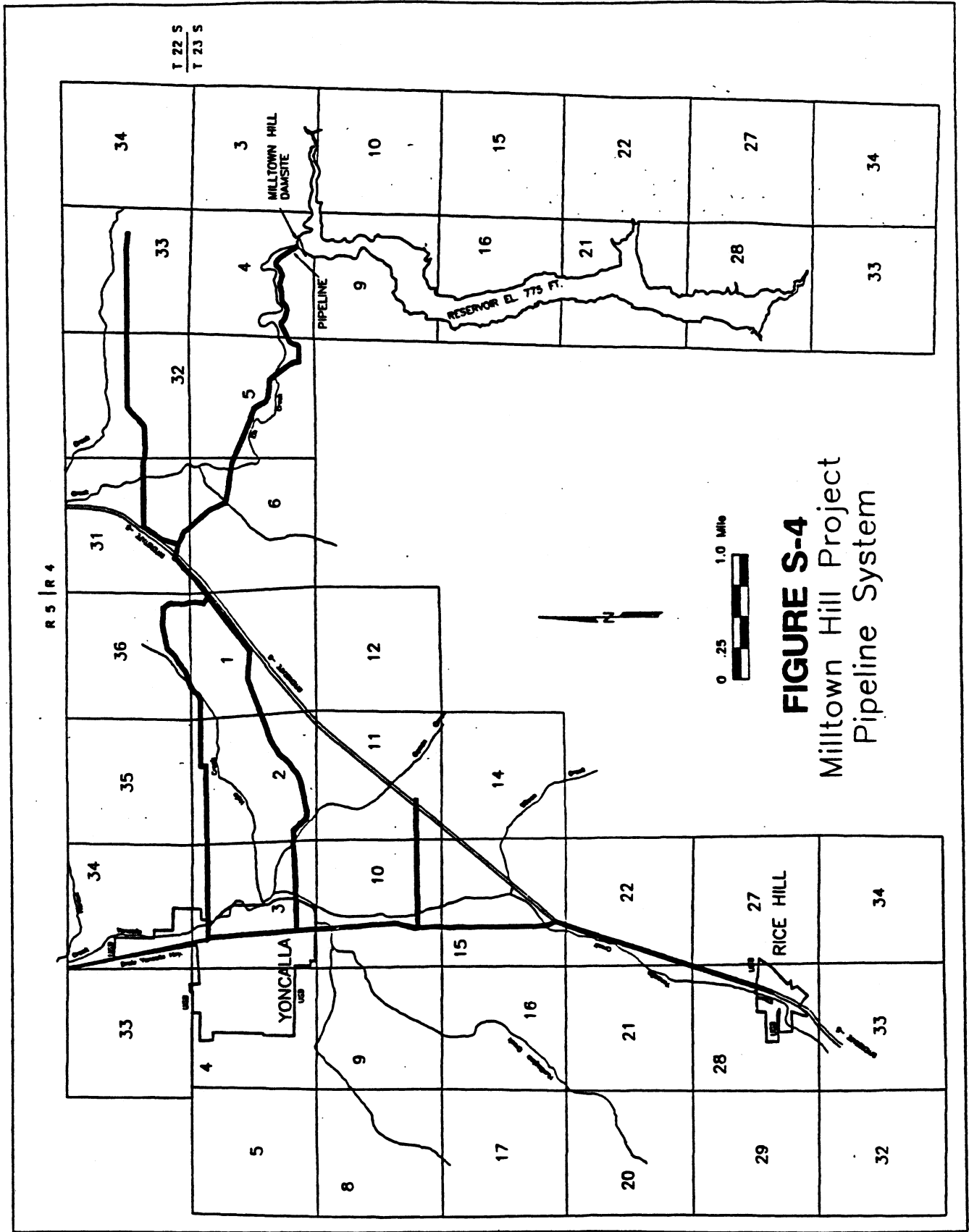


FIGURE S-4
 Milltown Hill Project
 Pipeline System

T 22 S
 T 23 S

Stored releases for fish enhancement could be protected from appropriation by an instream water right. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife would apply for an instream water right from the Water Resources Department. Log or gabion structures would be placed across Elk Creek in certain areas to trap gravels for spawning purposes. Due to the lack of natural gravel recruitment, additional gravel would be placed along with the gravel holding structures. Approximately 8,000 square feet of gravel will be placed between river miles 39.4 and 34.4, 33,000 square feet between river miles 34.4 and the mouth, and 4,000 square feet of gravel in the lowest reaches of Adams and Yoncalla Creeks. All gravel placements would be one foot in depth.

The potential problem of fish passage at Cunningham Dam would be evaluated by conducting fisheries surveys during the migratory period for anadromous fish.

The project would include measures to improve between 1 and 2 miles of riparian habitat along Elk Creek below the dam. Areas in need of habitat improvement are also located between Scotts Valley and Boswell Springs and in the Putnam Valley area. Improvements would include vegetative plantings and fencing to protect the existing and improved riparian areas from livestock grazing.

- Water Quality

Water quality is generally good in Elk Creek except during summer months (June through October) when flows are less than 5 cfs and frequently at 0 cfs. Low flows cause temperature and dissolved oxygen problems. Treated domestic waste discharge from communities further exacerbates these problems. The project would increase summer flows to 30 to 40 cfs at Boswell Springs (river mile 26.5) to dilute waste discharges in Yoncalla and Elk Creeks.

- Municipal and Industrial Water

The present limited water supply for Yoncalla and Drain would be supplemented and sufficient until about the year 2030. The Rice Hill area, which suffers from degraded ground water from petroleum spills and has no surface water supply, would have access to the pipeline to allow purchase of water. The pipeline would also have fire hydrant turn-outs along its length to provide a source of water for fire suppression activities.

- Rural Domestic Water

The pipeline would provide the opportunity for rural homeowners to tap into a reliable, safe water supply. Treatment would be required by users.

- Irrigation

There are about 7,377 acres of arable lands in the project service area. Presently, about 1,533 acres are irrigated, but irrigation is frequently curtailed during summer months due to lack of water. About 897 acres of the 1,533 acres require supplemental supplies. The project would allow a full irrigation supply for about 2,601 acres by the pipeline distribution system and 1,163 acres by pumping directly from Elk Creek totaling 3,764 acres. Those lands not receiving sufficient water at this time (approximately 897 acres) would receive a supplemental supply.

- Flood Control

Floods frequently occur in Elk Creek. Approximately \$205,000 of average annual flood damage occurs in or near the City of Drain. The project would decrease the flood elevation by about 1 foot in Drain which would reduce flood damages to about 1/3 of present levels.

- Recreation

Two recreation facilities would be constructed on the shores of Milltown Hill Reservoir. These facilities would allow public parking and access to the shoreline and to the lake for sightseers, picnickers, recreational boaters, and fishing. An estimated 53,000 recreational use-days per year are predicted.

- Addition of a Reservoir Fish Program

Several actions would be taken to ensure good habitat for reservoir fish. These actions include leaving timber standing on about 90 acres on the Walker Creek arm of the reservoir and in the northern portion of the reservoir. Timber would also be left standing south of the County Road #8 causeway. Brush piles would be left in the central pool area. In addition, brush piles, tree stumps, and other woody debris would be placed in the main pool area and south of the County Road #8 causeway. Emergent vegetation would be planted in the southern end of the reservoir for habitat enhancement. Although these actions would benefit fisheries resources, shoreline spawners may be adversely affected by drawdowns in the reservoir pool during irrigation season.

Mitigation of Project Impacts

• Mitigation of Wildlife Impacts in the Reservoir Area

The project would include several actions taken in the reservoir area to mitigate wildlife and wildlife habitat losses. These actions would include measures for both terrestrial and aquatic wildlife.

The County proposes to acquire and manage approximately 200 acres of land adjacent to the southern end of the reservoir area for terrestrial wildlife mitigation. These lands would be protected and managed to increase wildlife habitat, but would not involve measures which would require intensive operation and maintenance. Improvements would include the cessation of livestock grazing to allow recovery of native plants. The area is currently fenced. Vegetative plantings of mast producing plants would be made along field edges and fence rows to form a buffer, provide cover, and produce food. Snags would be developed in coniferous stands, by providing nest boxes and platforms, to improve nesting habitat for several bird species.

An additional 50 acres of snags and nest box development would occur on lands in the takeline area. This would include wood duck boxes on the Walker Creek arm of the reservoir. Goose nests and osprey platforms would be constructed in several areas.

• Mitigation of Loss of Black-tailed Deer and Turkey Habitat

Habitat would be secured off-site to compensate for loss of 681 acres of black-tailed deer and turkey habitat which would be occupied by the reservoir. The County would secure 767 acres of habitat for the Federal endangered Columbian white-tailed deer. The 767 acres would be a portion of the 5,500 acres of white-tailed deer habitat that is necessary to secure to delist the species so that the species can be managed. About 2,000 acres of secured habitat currently exists within Federal, County, and State lands.

• Mitigation of Impacts to Wetlands in the Reservoir Area

Douglas County proposes the development of about 23 acres of permanent, shallow-water wetlands at the upstream end of the reservoir south of the County Road #8 causeway. These wetlands would be formed by scooping out shallow depressions in flat areas that would normally be dewatered during summer drawdown. The excavated material would be used to create low berms adjacent to the shallows. The berms would be treated to protect them from erosion and would be planted with herbaceous and woody vegetation tolerant to inundation. These wetlands would survive projected

drawdown conditions.

Wetlands in the irrigation service area would be protected from agricultural development. Douglas County would notify landowners of the location of wetlands. No project drainage or change in agricultural practices would occur to negatively affect jurisdictional wetlands at the time the water service contract is negotiated. This would be enforced by Douglas County with a wetland protective clause in the water service contract between the County and individual water user.

The purchase of a 3-acre log pond that was discussed in the DEIS for the project would not be part of the project as planned. A decision to remove the log pond from the project was made after further investigation by Douglas County determined that water quality in the log pond was not as anticipated based on prior conversations, and that a considerable clean-up liability may be incurred if the pond was part of the project. This decision to remove the log pond from the project does not deter Douglas County's desire to use the log pond for development of a recreational and wildlife facility, but it is in Douglas County's best interest to pursue it separately from the Milltown Hill Project. Also, there may be additional funding sources available (for clean-up) if the log pond is not part of the project.

- Mitigation of Impacts to the Transportation System

The existing County roads would be re-aligned and improved near the proposed reservoir. This would result in a safer transportation system in the vicinity and between Interstate-5 and Oakland via County Road #7.

- Mitigation of Impacts to Cultural Resources

A site protection and mitigation plan would be developed and presented to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (Council) for review and approval. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for impact mitigation actions would be signed by Reclamation, Douglas County, the SHPO, and the Council. Native American tribes would be consulted regarding treatment of human remains and other objects, consistent with requirements in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990. If a standing structure was determined eligible to the Register, means to preserve the structure would be sought. If preservation was not feasible, its historic and/or architectural characteristics would be documented. These actions would also be addressed in the site protection and mitigation plan and the MOA described above.

Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences of the Preferred Alternative

General Vicinity

The proposed Milltown Hill project dam site is located on Elk Creek at river mile 39.4 and is in the SW 1/4 SE 1/4 Section 4, T.23S., R.4W., W.M. Elk Creek originates in the Calapooya Mountains approximately 7 miles southeast of the damsite, and flows westward for approximately 47 miles across northern Douglas County to its confluence with the Umpqua River at Elkton. The Elk Creek subbasin covers 290 square miles, while the watershed for the dam would encompass 30.7 square miles.

Climate

Approximately 85 percent of the 48 to 54 inches of precipitation in the Elk Creek subbasin occurs between November and April. Only 15 percent occurs between May and October. Precipitation is primarily in the form of rainfall rather than snowfall because of the relatively low elevation. Summers are warm, frequently approaching 90 to 100°F.

Water Quantity and Quality

The mean annual discharge of Elk Creek at Drain, located 12 miles downstream from the damsite, is 209 cfs. Low flows, frequently reaching 0 cfs, occur typically from June through October, which reflects the lack of precipitation during this period. The high flow record at Drain is 19,000 cfs. Zero flows have been recorded.

Water quality in Elk Creek is generally high. It is within the allowable limits specified in Oregon Drinking Water Standards. Water temperatures in Elk Creek usually reach high levels during the summer months, thereby reducing the habitat of juvenile anadromous fish. Construction of the dam and other project facilities would cause temporary turbidity in Elk Creek. The impacts would be minor and short-lived. Soil erosion control efforts would be required during construction. Waters in the reservoir pool may have increased turbidity, reduced dissolved oxygen, and increase nutrient levels for several years. The fixed cone valve would aerate the water, increasing dissolved oxygen content of discharged reservoir water. However, water temperatures in the reservoir would be significantly lower during the summer months, thereby benefiting aquatic fauna downstream. There is some concern about the potential for natural occurrences of mercury in the proposed reservoir. Mercury levels would be monitored by Douglas County.

Released water would be well aerated and cool, providing for enhanced habitat for fish downstream from the dam. The multiple-level intake on the outlet works would allow selection of discharge water at various levels permitting control of turbidity, temperature and dissolved oxygen in Elk Creek below the dam. Irrigation flow returns would return to surface waters mostly through the ground water rather than through surface flows, resulting in low levels of turbidity and low water temperatures, with some increase in dissolved constituents.

Supplies of ground water in the Elk Creek subbasin are limited, and appear adequate to supply only individual rural domestic needs. The cities of Yoncalla and Drain and irrigated farmlands are dependent upon surface water supplies.

Stream flows in Elk Creek during the months of July through October frequently do not meet current water demands. Junior water right holders usually have their withdrawals limited or stopped, while holders of older water rights may have their withdrawals curtailed during the summer months. Future demands for surface water will undoubtedly increase, making water shortages more critical. The 24,143 acre-foot capacity of the proposed reservoir would meet existing and projected irrigation and municipal and industrial needs. Approximately 7,737 acre-feet would be allocated for stream flow enhancement for fisheries resources, 937 acre-feet for municipal and industrial users, and 9,654 acre-feet for irrigation needs.

Communities which would benefit from the project's water are Yoncalla and Drain, having populations of 790 and 1,070 respectively. The small community of Rice Hill, which obtains its water from ground water supplies, would also benefit from availability of a pipeline supply.

Approximately, 4,661 of the 7,377 acres of arable lands in the service area would benefit from the project.

Storage would reduce flood damage in the Drain area to about 1/3 of its present level.

Geology and Soils

Geologic and seismic investigations indicate the project site is suitable for construction of the dam. Soils in the reservoir area are composed of alluvial deposits of silt, sand and gravel. The potential for erosion is moderate. Construction of the project would cause short-term soil erosion in the reservoir inundation area. Erosion control measures would minimize siltation in Elk Creek.

Air Quality and Noise

An on-site quarry, located above the 775 normal full pool level, would be used to provide all rock needs for the project. An alternative source is the existing Hobart Quarry, located about 1.7 miles east of County Road #8. Construction activities would cause localized, temporary lowering of air quality in the project area. Contractors would be required to comply with applicable federal and state air quality regulations, to keep air quality impacts at minimum levels.

Construction noise would exceed the present ambient low noise levels. Construction noise levels would affect a few local residents during daylight hours. Motorboats would be the primary sources of noise during project operation. This can be expected at a water storage project.

Visual Quality

Visual quality of the project area (reservoir and dam site) would be altered considerably. The present low-use pastoral setting in upper Elk Creek valley would be changed to a high-use water-oriented recreation area. Reactions of local residents to such change would probably vary, depending upon personal tolerance to change. The visual quality of the reservoir area would decrease during the drawdown period, as increased barren shorelines became more noticeable. There are no primitive areas, natural areas, or areas of critical environmental concern in or near the project area.

Land Use

Project implementation would require 1,192 acres of land. Approximately 681 acres would be inundated and the remaining 512 acres would be used for other project facilities, such as wildlife habitat areas, recreation sites, new roads and road causeways, realigned roads, a microwave tower, and the quarry. An additional 767 acres of mitigation would be acquired for white-tailed deer habitat.

There are approximately 115 acres of prime farmlands in the reservoir area that would be flooded. No unique farmlands have been identified in either the reservoir area or on the lands suitable for irrigation. Approximately 364 acres of commercial timberlands would be lost to the project.

Approximately 31 acres of wetlands in the reservoir area would be inundated. The project would provide for the development of new wetland areas in the upper reservoir area.

The project would not alter existing land-use patterns in the irrigated areas, however secondary impacts could occur in the watershed, such as modification of timber harvest activities to assure visual quality and quality of the stored water.

Threatened and Endangered Species

The Fish and Wildlife Service has identified Columbian white-tailed deer, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, and northern spotted owl as listed species that may occur in the area of the proposed project. There are no known federal or state listed threatened or endangered plants in the project area. A survey was made to determine if the threatened northern spotted owl exists on or near the project area. No owls were located in the area 1.2 miles from the damsite. Section 7 Consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service, as required under the Endangered Species Act, was undertaken for the Columbian white-tailed deer, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, and northern spotted owl. A revised biological assessment of all threatened and endangered species was prepared and submitted to the Fish and Wildlife Service. The Fish and Wildlife Service concurred that no adverse impacts would likely occur to threatened or endangered species.

Wildlife Resources

The Elk Creek subbasin supports a variety of big-game animals, such as Roosevelt elk, black-tailed deer and black bears. Non-game mammals and furbearers are known to exist in the project area. Population levels are unknown. The project would inundate 681 acres of habitat presently available for wildlife. This loss of habitat would be mitigated by securing suitable habitat for the Columbian white-tailed deer and the black-tailed deer in areas south of the project known to be white-tailed deer habitat. An additional 200 acres of land would be secured immediately south of the reservoir as additional wildlife habitat. The upper reaches of the reservoir would be developed into potholes, creating additional wetlands and wildlife habitat.

The reservoir would provide new habitat for waterfowl and birds of prey, such as the osprey and bald eagle. The reservoir would be stocked with fish, providing a source of food for these birds of prey.

The reservoir would create an influx of recreationists. This increase in people would result in a minor amount of harassment to wildlife.

Recreation

The two recreational facilities on the reservoir would provide up to 53,000 day-use visits annually plus some increase in waterfowl hunting.

Fish Resource

The four and a half miles of Elk Creek and tributaries to be flooded by the reservoir is existing habitat for anadromous fish and resident trout. The resident trout would continue to live and spawn in the upper 1 1/2 miles of Elk Creek above the normal full pool at 775 msl. Although the habitat would be lost, it would be more than offset by fisheries enhancement through project improved, colder instream flows in 39.4 miles of Elk Creek below the dam. Additional fish habitat improvement would be provided by depositing gravels and woody debris in selected sections of lower Elk Creek and a few of its tributaries.

Enhancement actions would provide increases in escapement for fall chinook (1,200), winter steelhead (950), coho (1,350), and sea-run cutthroat (1,000). Resident fish populations upstream from the dam and reservoir would be minimally adversely affected by project operation. The reservoir would be stocked with either warm-water fish or trout.

Cultural Resources

Excavations of several known archeological sites and several possible other sites would be accomplished before project construction activities are authorized. Appropriate federal and state agencies would be consulted to determine site significance and to develop site preservation or recovery plans.

Socio-economic Conditions

Approximately 10 households, including 26 residents living in the proposed reservoir area, would require relocation. The resident relocation program would be conducted in accordance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Properties Acquisition Policies Act of 1970. Douglas County would negotiate property compensations with the residents at the earliest possible date, and provide assistance to those seeking relocation in the area.

The influx of construction workers would not significantly impact police and fire protection services, hospital service, schools, transportation, or housing. Most construction workers are expected to be workers presently residing in the County. Imported workers are expected to commute from Roseburg or nearby towns.

These cities are capable of providing all the services needed by the construction work force. During the 3-year construction period, on-site contractors and Government employees would generate over \$12,500,000 of wages.

Operation of the project would have an increasingly favorable impact on the local socio-economic conditions in the Elk Creek subbasin. The provision of year-long adequate supplies of water would provide the impetus for a few new and diversified industries in the Elk Creek subbasin. A gradual increase in the productivity of farmlands in the service areas would occur as lands become irrigated and reach their potential productivity levels.

The influx of recreationists to the reservoir would generate an undetermined amount of income to the service industry in the county.

Environmental Consequences of the No-Action Alternative

The no action alternative assumes that the Federal government would neither act nor participate in an action to relieve water resource problems in the study area. If any actions were taken in the area, they would be performed by local and State entities, private organizations, and individuals. For the Elk Creek subbasin, the future without a project is identical to a "no-action" alternative. A condition of "future without" is required as a base from which to measure benefits and impacts.

The proposed project area and conditions in the Elk Creek subbasin would remain in their present condition if no action was taken. The identified needs of the county and of the residents of the service area would not be realized. In addition, enhancement opportunities for natural resources would not be realized.

The environmental components which would remain unchanged if the project was not constructed are: climate, topography and geology, seismicity, soils, mineral and aggregate resource, air quality, noise, vegetation, wetlands, threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, visual resources, recreation, and wildlife.

A summary comparison of the impacts of a no-action alternative and the preferred alternative is shown in Table S-2. The following discussions focus on the impacts on those environmental components which would be affected if the project was not constructed.

Land Use

The land area proposed to be occupied by the dam and reservoir would continue to be used as it is now. No new irrigation

Table S-2. Summary Comparison of the Impacts of a No-action Alternative and the Preferred Alternative.

	No Action Alternative	Preferred Alternative
Climate	No change	No change
Geology, Topography	No change	Site appears geologically suitable. Minor local topographic changes would result from construction of the dam, recreation sites, and relocated and new roads.
Seismicity	No change	No impact on dam up to design acceleration. Minimal risk of induced seismicity from the reservoir.
Soils, Erosion	No change	680 acres of soils would be inundated by the reservoir and dam. Small amounts of soil will be lost in the construction of recreation sites and realigned roads.
Mineral and Aggregate Resources	No change	Borrow areas would be within the pool area. No threat to future mercury mining. Oil and gas development unlikely.
Air Quality	No change	Construction activities would cause decreased air quality due to dispersion of particulates and to equipment exhausts.
Noise	No change	Increased noise during 3-year construction period. Increased noise levels on reservoir and shorelines during recreation season.
Vegetation	No change	680 acres of vegetation would be permanently lost due to the reservoir and dam, including pasture land, timber, brush, riparian, and wetlands. An additional 6 acres would be lost due to road construction and relocation.
Wetlands	No change.	The loss of wetlands in the reservoir area would be mitigated by purchasing and enhancing wetlands near Yoncalla and by developing additional wetlands in the upper pool area of the reservoir.
Threatened and Endangered Species	No change.	No adverse effects to federally listed species would occur. Beneficial effects to the bald eagle would occur as a result of increased forage base. Mitigation for game species would benefit endangered Columbian white-tailed deer by securing 767 acres of habitat.
Cultural Resources	No change	Identified sites would be excavated to determine significance. Recovery plans would be developed.
Visual Resources	No change	Increased quality in lower reaches of Elk Creek. Increased quality at full or near-full reservoir. Decreasing quality as water level decreases.
Recreation	No change.	Up to 53,000 water-oriented recreation days would become available each year.
Wildlife	No change.	A variety of non-game and game species would be affected by loss of 680 acres of habitat by reservoir inundation and 50 acres above the take line. Lost habitat values would be mitigated by creating a 235 acre wildlife area on-site and by securing 767 acres of Columbian white-tailed deer habitat off-site. The reservoir would provide new aquatic habitat for certain wildlife such as waterfowl, bald eagle, and osprey. Riparian habitat would be restored downstream.

Table S-2. continued.

Land Use	Agricultural areas would continue to produce livestock feed at less than optimum levels. Opportunities for growth would continue to be extremely limited.	Increased irrigation would result in increased livestock production. Slight decrease in land suited for timber production. Loss of agricultural lands in the reservoir area.
Public water supply	Yoncalla would continue to divert and store water from Adams Creek, but growth would be limited because of water supply. Water quality would remain unsatisfactory. Rice Hill ground water supplies would diminish.	M&I water demands would be adequately met, increasing the possibility for increased economic growth in Yoncalla, Drain, and Rice Hill. A new reliable source of water would be available in the Rice Hill area and Yoncalla.
Surface Water	Summer flows in lower segments of Elk Creek would remain about the same or slightly decrease. Temperatures would increase slightly due to decreased stream flow. Dissolved oxygen would decrease. Stream turbidity would remain unchanged.	Summer flows would increase. Winter flows would decrease, preventing some flooding. Stream temperature would be reduced in summer in 20-30 miles of stream below the dam. Stream turbidity would increase slightly in summer and decrease slightly in winter. Dissolved oxygen would increase in summer. Increased amounts of water would be available for M&I and irrigation use, and stream habitat improvement.
Ground Water	Supplies would gradually decrease due to increased use as a domestic water source.	Water table near the reservoir and in irrigated areas would be higher.
Fish Habitat	No change in existing poor anadromous fish habitat.	The reservoir would provide a new fishery, but also cause the loss of 4.5 miles of anadromous and resident fish habitat. Anadromous fish habitat would be enhanced by increased summer flows, decreased water temperatures, gravel dispersement, and improvement of pool-riffle ratio in lower Elk Creek.
Population	Slight natural increase in population. Younger residents would move to areas of better work opportunity. Some increase in rural residential growth.	Opportunities for increased agricultural work and diversification of industries would result in net increases in population. Slight increases in rural homesites could occur.
Economic Growth	Opportunities for economic growth would not be realized. Future reliance on the wood processing industry remains uncertain.	The availability of water would present opportunities for increased production of crops, provide adequate supplies of water for increased municipal use and industrial diversification.
Flooding	Portion of Lower Elk Creek would continue to experience uncontrolled flooding during periods of high winter runoff.	Overbank stages of Elk Creek in the city of Drain would be reduced one foot.

development is possible without surface water storage. Lands presently without sufficient sources of water would continue to suffer from that problem, and the economic potential of the land would not be realized. The agricultural areas in Scotts Valley, Yoncalla Valley, and areas bordering lower Elk Creek would probably continue to be used primarily for livestock production. Such production would continue at present low levels due to the lack of water needed for irrigation. The areas occupied by the towns of Yoncalla, Drain and Elkton would remain the primary urban communities, showing little or no expansion. A small increase in rural homesites would occur.

Public Water Supply

Yoncalla would continue to rely on the diversion of water from Adams Creek. This source is not reliable and is unsatisfactory, since it is stored in a shallow 100 acre-foot reservoir. There would be no water for the expansion of existing industries or introduction of new industries in Drain, Yoncalla, or the Rice Hill area.

Surface Water Quantity

Summer flows in the lower segments of Elk Creek would remain about the same or slightly decrease. Flow decreases would result in water temperature increases and dissolved oxygen decreases. Floods would continue to be an unresolved problem in lower Elk Creek.

Surface Water Quality

Water quality would remain much as it is today. Some minor improvement in suspended sediment and color could result if restrictions on harvesting timber in spotted owl habitat go into effect.

Ground Water

Slight increases in rural home construction in the Elk Creek subbasin can be expected in the future. This would further increase the demand for domestic water, resulting in further depletion of ground water sources in the vicinity of Drain, Yoncalla, and Rice Hill as well as in downstream areas.

Anadromous Fish Habitat

The fisheries resource would remain much as it is today. Actions to improve habitat are not likely. Low summer flows and poor instream habitat would continue to limit resident and anadromous fish populations.

The 4 1/2 mile segment of Elk Creek which would be occupied by the proposed reservoir would remain as habitat for anadromous and resident fish. The lower reaches of Elk Creek and its tributaries would continue to be marginal spawning and rearing habitat for anadromous fish, due to low flows and high water temperature during summer.

Population

The displacement of approximately 26 persons from their homes in the reservoir area would not occur. Without new industries, the population of Drain and Yoncalla would grow slightly, but not as rapidly as growth rates for Douglas County or the State of Oregon. A slight increase in rural population can be expected in Elk Creek subbasin, since people who prefer the rural quality of life would build homes there, and commute to Eugene or Roseburg for their livelihood. A small increase in population may occur from immigration of retirement-age people. This would probably be offset by the out-migration of younger people looking for livelihood in Roseburg or Eugene, or other metropolitan areas.

Economic Growth

Opportunities for economic growth and diversity in the communities of Drain, Yoncalla and Elkton would not be realized, due to the lack of water for irrigation, municipal, and industrial use. These communities would continue to have their economy based on jobs relating to the wood processing industry, which may face further decreases in production in the near and not-so-near future.

These communities would not benefit from income generated by construction and operation of the preferred alternative. The opportunity for increased farm income in the future would not be realized.

Douglas County has placed the Elk Creek subbasin as its first priority among several small water development projects in the County. The County has also indicated that if the preferred alternative cannot be identified as a feasible project then it will place the Milltown Hill storage plan in an inactive status and pursue studies in other tributaries to the Umpqua River. The County would return to the Elk Creek proposal in the future and determine if conditions had changed sufficiently to warrant a

renewed attempt to develop the project. Rejection of the project would preclude any significant growth or economic stabilization within the Elk Creek subbasin.

The Federal government plans to adopt a recovery plan for the threatened northern spotted owl. This action would probably result in a significant decrease in future timber harvests. Large, old-growth forests, characteristic of Douglas County, would be particularly affected. The anticipated, yet to be determined, reduction in timber harvest would cause a further decline in the forest products industry, resulting in an outmigration of people and increased unemployment. Such a situation would reduce County revenue, increase costs for assistance programs, increase social problems, and intensify the need for economic diversity and stabilization.

A decrease in County revenues would make developing an infrastructure to attract new business more difficult. Since 1980, Douglas County has invested over \$19 million of federal Oregon and California (O&C) timber sale revenues in water resource projects. The future availability of O&C revenues for water resource development may be in jeopardy, as these funds could be diverted to provide for other social needs resulting from anticipated high unemployment. If the currently conceived project is not authorized, the existing problems would not only continue but may worsen as a result of anticipated reductions in harvesting federal timber.

The community of Rice Hill can absorb only a limited amount of additional growth, and only if private wells are developed. Ground water in the Rice Hill area is difficult to find in quantities sufficient for domestic needs. Water quality would continue to be a problem.

The city of Yoncalla is currently limiting expansion of its water system. While the city could possibly enlarge its current 100-acre-foot off-stream reservoir and increase the capacity of its Adams Creek pumping plant and pipeline, Adams Creek flows are too uncertain to significantly help the community.

The City of Drain has a water right to store 1,000 acre-feet of water on Billy Creek. A 290 acre-foot reservoir was constructed. Engineering conditions make enlarging the current reservoir unlikely. This situation would limit future growth in Drain.

Some rural domestic growth may occur elsewhere in the subbasin using local ground-water supplies. However, land use restrictions would limit this type of growth.

Flooding

Periodic flooding of Elk Creek would continue in the future. The Umpqua Basin would continue to suffer an average of \$205,000 in flood damages annually.

CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

On November 26, 1985, the Douglas County Commission and the Bureau of Reclamation signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), initiating the Northern Douglas County Cooperative Water Resources Study. The study involved the search for potential water storage sites in the Calapooya and Elk Creek subbasins. The MOU defined each agency's role in the study. Subsequently, the study was limited to the Elk Creek subbasin. A study plan was formulated, and a multi-disciplinary team was organized. The team members were assigned one or more environmental or engineering components of the study. Reclamation mailed a notice of initiation of the study to the media, federal and state agencies, and groups with known interest in Reclamation's activities. As the study progressed, it became apparent to Reclamation and Douglas County that the Milltown Hill alternative merited increased study.

From 1985 through 1991, more agencies became involved in the study. The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires the preparation of an environmental impact statement whenever a federal or federally-related project is proposed which may significantly affect the environment. NEPA further requires that concerned federal, state and local agencies, and the public be consulted in the preparation of the environmental impact statement, in order to determine if the project will cause controversy or areas of concern.

The agencies with which the Bureau of Reclamation and Douglas County most closely coordinated included:

- Douglas County Water Advisory Board
- Douglas County Parks Department
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- Corps of Engineers
- Bureau of Mines
- Soil Conservation Service
- Bureau of Land Management

The citizens of Douglas County, especially those in the Elk Creek subbasin, have actively expressed their needs through public meetings.

Table 4-1 in Section 4, Consultation and Coordination, summarizes environmental concerns and actions taken to address concerns for the proposed project. During consultation and coordination, no areas of controversy surfaced. However, as data were gathered, and significant studies progressed, the following issues were raised and were subsequently addressed in the development of the project plans reflected in this environmental impact statement.

- Areas to be served by the project
- Specific needs of water in the Elk Creek subbasin for municipal/industrial and irrigation users.
- Water yield to satisfy the needs
- Water quality
- Loss of anadromous fish and their habitat
- Loss of wildlife habitat
- Loss of habitat of threatened and endangered wildlife and flora
- Loss of prime and unique farmlands
- Loss of wetlands
- Loss of sources of minerals and aggregate
- Loss of farmlands that would be flooded by the project
- Loss of timber-producing lands
- Displacement of people living in the proposed reservoir area
- Flood Control
- Project safety
- Project alternatives
- Transportation impacts
- Recreation opportunities

Draft Environmental Impact Statement

A draft EIS (DEIS) was filed with the Environmental Protection Agency on December 11, 1991. The statement number was DES 91-33. The distribution list for the DEIS is in Appendix A. The comment period lasted until February 11, 1992. During the comment period, 2 public hearings were held.

At the January 20, 1992 public hearing, Drain, Oregon, a total of 30 people attended. After the Bureau of Reclamation explained that the purpose of the meeting was to accept oral or written comments on the adequacy of the DEIS, 6 persons submitted oral comments on the projects. Comments were generally supportive of the project. Speakers addressed the local benefits that would result from the project: improved municipal and domestic water supply and water quality, flood control, improved irrigation water management, municipal and industrial growth, enhancement of fisheries habitat, and new flat water recreation opportunities. No comments addressed the adequacy of the DEIS.

A second public hearing was held January 21, 1992, in Roseburg, Oregon. A total of 22 people attended this meeting. After the Bureau of Reclamation explained to the attendees that the purpose of the meeting was to accept comments on the adequacy of the DEIS, 5 persons submitted oral comments on the project. Most speakers indicated there is a need for the project to improve fisheries habitat, to improve water quality, to satisfy existing water rights, to control flooding, and to provide for controlled seasonal distribution of surface water. No comments were made concerning the adequacy of the DEIS.

Letters of comment were received on the DEIS from private citizens, local agencies, state agencies, and federal agencies. All of the citizen letters were supportive of the project, except one. Although there were no agency letters that were not supportive of the project, several requested additional information or clarification of statements in the DEIS. Text or tables in the DEIS were either revised or responses were provided in Appendix G (Comments and Responses to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement) and this Final Environmental Impact Statement was prepared.

1.0 PURPOSE AND NEED

1.1 Purpose

The purpose of the Milltown Hill Project, a 24,143 acre-foot reservoir and pipeline distribution system 19.6 miles long in the Elk Creek subbasin (Umpqua River Basin) of western Oregon (Figure S-1), is to fulfill a portion of the existing and projected needs of urban and rural water users. The project would:

- Provide increased water supplies during the growing season through an irrigation system, to provide a full supply of irrigation water for up to 2,601 acres of arable land in Yoncalla and Scotts Valley, and allow pumping of water directly from Elk Creek to provide a full supply up to an additional 1,163 acres of arable lands along Elk Creek. A supplemental supply would be provided to 897 acres.
- Provide for the storage and distribution of water to the cities of Yoncalla and Drain and the community of Rice Hill, allowing for municipal expansion and industrial diversification.
- Provide a reliable source of water for rural domestic use in the areas served by the pipeline system.
- Provide opportunities to improve fish and wildlife habitat.
- Improve water quality in Elk Creek and Yoncalla Creek.
- Provide new water-related recreational facilities.
- Provide limited flood control, in and near the city of Drain.

1.2 Need

Historically, Douglas County has relied on the forest products industry to be its main economic contributor. Timber receipts account for 70 percent of the County's revenue. In recent decades the forest products industry has been subject to unpredictable markets for its products. This condition results in seasonal and sometimes protracted unemployment, which in turn causes significant losses of revenue for the County. When such conditions exist, the County is unable to provide continuing optimal services to its residents. Douglas County has, for decades, searched for means to diversify its industrial base in the hope of stabilizing its economy. In 1985, the Bureau of Reclamation and the Douglas County

Water Resources Survey initiated the Northern Douglas County Water Resources Study to find solutions to the resource needs in the Elk Creek subbasin.

The primary socio-economic problem in the Elk Creek subbasin is the lack of opportunities for industrial growth and diversification. This problem has been on-going for decades. The area has historically been dependent on one industry, the forest products industry. The privately-owned, old growth timber base supplying the resource for the industry has been almost completely depleted after forty to fifty years of harvesting. Changes in wood processing techniques, competition for government-owned timber, high stumpage and processing costs, and unpredictable markets have forced most processing plants in the Elk Creek subbasin out of business. The future of this industry remains uncertain, especially since recent region-wide controversy has been generated over the future management of old-growth forests and the protection of the Northern spotted owl, a federally designated threatened species.

The tourist industry, an important economic factor in Douglas County, is not a viable income producing alternative in the Elk Creek subbasin. There are no destination resorts to attract tourists and water-related recreational opportunities are not available in the Elk Creek subbasin. There are no federal or state parks.

The economy of the area is not likely to improve unless opportunities are made available for industrial diversification. The Milltown Hill Project presents one opportunity. The key to industrial and economic diversity is the availability of water. Cooperative investigations between Douglas County and the Bureau of Reclamation have found that the area suffers from the lack of year-round supplies of quality water for municipal, industrial and irrigation use. Lack of water has inhibited economic growth in the Elk Creek subbasin. Construction and operation of the Milltown Hill project would store and supply the necessary amounts of water for municipal growth, industrial diversification, and improved agricultural development. The project would improve anadromous fish habitat, water-related recreational activities, and provide some flood control. Water quality would also be improved.

As a result of the findings of these studies, Douglas County applied to the Bureau of Reclamation for a loan under the Small Reclamation Projects Act (SRPA) (P.L. 84-984) to construct and operate the Milltown Hill Project. This action was taken in May, 1991.

A more detailed discussion of area needs follows:

1.2.1 Socio-economic

The problems of seasonal and cyclical unemployment in the Elk Creek subbasin are related to the vagaries of the wood products industry. The decrease in available private timber in the past decade has increased the demand for federal timber. This in turn has created inordinately high prices for timber. Bidders actively bid on timber which may be hauled more than 100 miles to be processed. Local processing plants have not been able to meet the competition. This has resulted in mill closures and the loss of jobs.

The tourism industry in the Elk Creek subbasin is not considered a major job-producing industry since there are no major recreational facilities in the area. Many local residents have moved to Roseburg or Eugene to find employment. Other residents have remained in the area, either commuting to these cities or attempting to find temporary local employment. Unemployment rates remain high. This results in increased social problems with which the County must control. At the same time the demands for local government increase, tax receipts and other county revenues are reduced, thereby limiting government's ability to provide the needed services.

1.2.2 Anadromous Fish

Elk Creek offers little habitat diversity for the production of fish and other aquatic organisms due to the lack of gravels, riffles, and other instream structures. Spawning and rearing habitat for anadromous and resident fish is sparse, especially during low flows. Late summer flows are generally less than 5 cfs and frequently approach 0 cfs, whereas average winter and spring flows are about 800 to 1,000 cfs. The low summer flows and warm climate combine to create warm water temperatures that frequently exceed 75°F in the mainstem.

Stream temperatures throughout Elk Creek subbasin regularly exceed the maximum temperature of 58°F for protecting the eggs and young of cold water fish (such as trout and salmon). The 65 to 70°F maximum that cold water fish can withstand for short periods is also regularly exceeded. Measurements in Elk Creek near Elkton show periodic temperatures near 90°F. The stream needs reduced temperatures to support the spawning and rearing of cold water fish.

Specific areas of need identified within Elk Creek include improved instream habitat, improved riparian habitat, increased instream flows, and lower water temperature.

Elk Creek consists of a bedrock system with many long pools and few riffles. Most of these pools occur in the lower part of

the creek below Drain. They are generally shallow and less than 3 feet in depth. These pools provide the primary fish rearing potential in Elk Creek, but they contain little if any cover such as boulders and woody debris required by young fish. Enhancing the pools for rearing would require placement of additional materials to provide cover.

Spawning habitat requires gravel. The mainstem of Elk Creek lacks significant gravel sources. Some gravel deposits occur along the stream banks and in the small tributary streams. In order to enhance mainstem spawning, measures are needed to trap gravel and disperse it across the bottom of the stream. The stream would also require additional placement of gravel to supplement natural recruitment.

Elk Creek has good riparian habitat and canopy in the upper 1/2 of its length. Several areas between Scotts Valley and Boswell Springs and in Putnam Valley have sparse riparian vegetation. The areas of sparse riparian vegetation appear to have resulted from land use practices, primarily grazing. Insufficient riparian vegetation causes bank erosion, increases stream temperatures, removes a source of biomass to the stream, reduces cover for the fish, and may reduce summer base flow. Those areas with poor riparian vegetation need a combination of plantings and other measures to protect the riparian vegetation. Between 1.5 and 2.0 miles of stream require riparian restoration. Below Drain, Elk Creek widens and riparian canopy is minimal to the mouth.

Streamflows become very low in the summer months, particularly in July, August, and September. Irrigation diversions further reduce these flows. Periods of no streamflow are common. Since low flows occur during the hottest months of the year, water temperatures become elevated. These conditions eliminate rearing habitat. Elk Creek needs an increase in instream flows during summer months to maintain rearing habitat.

In 1974, the State established a right for minimum flows on Elk Creek to help protect instream flows. Annually, these minimum statutory flows are violated 44 percent of the time. In 15 of the 28 years, at least 1 day of zero flow was recorded. There were 33 days of no-flow in 1973.

1.2.3 Wildlife Habitat

Wildlife habitat in the Elk Creek subbasin has been altered by road construction, logging, agriculture, grazing, and residential development. Land use in Shoestring Valley above Walker Creek has caused changes from forest successional stages to grass-pasture. Wildlife habitat needs would involve planting wildlife food plots in pastures and developing snags for cavity nesting species. A continued effort is needed to restore and enhance wildlife habitat.

1.2.4 Ground Water Quality

Information supplied by a study (Geological Survey, 1977) indicates that ground water quality in the Elk Creek subbasin, particularly in the Putnam, Scotts, and Yoncalla Valleys, is not suitable for municipal, industrial, or agricultural uses. This is due to seasonal high nutrient and coliform levels, apparently coming from non-point sources. There is a need to reduce nutrient input into ground water.

1.2.5 Ground Water Availability

Studies by the Geological Survey in 1977 indicate that the ground-water resources in the project area are limited and variable. Yields from existing wells range from about one to a few gallons per minute. The study concludes "because of the low permeability and low yield of the aquifers, there is little potential for large irrigation or municipal ground-water development in the Drain - Yoncalla - Rice Hill area. Additional municipal - irrigation water will have to come from new surface storage" (Bureau of Reclamation, 1991). There is a need for surface supplies to augment ground water supplies.

1.2.6 Surface Water Quality

In general, the surface water quality in Elk Creek subbasin is good. Total dissolved solids run well below the recommended maximum for municipal use of 500 milligrams per liter (mg/l). Most constituents examined in standard tests such as calcium, sodium, potassium, carbonate, sulfate, and chloride also are acceptable.

Some county water supplies do not meet use-criteria at various times and places. In particular, water samples taken at several locations in the subbasin exhibit problems with color, turbidity, temperature, fecal coliforms, dissolved oxygen, and various trace metals. Both aquatic life and esthetics are threatened in the lower 27 miles of Elk Creek because of pH and nutrient levels (Department of Environmental Quality, 1990). Contact recreation and aquatic life uses in this reach are not supported because of fecal coliforms and dissolved oxygen levels as well as low summer flows. The report states that suspected causes are agriculture (return flows), municipal point sources (sewage effluent), and nonpoint sources (septic tanks and drain field systems). The implication is that the problem is a seasonal one that occurs during low summer flows. There is a need to determine the causes of dissolved oxygen and fecal coliform problems.

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) cited effluent from the Cities of Drain and Yoncalla as possible causes of high coliform and nutrient levels in Elk Creek in its 1988, 305b report.

In response to a mandate from DEQ, some cities in Douglas County are being required to enter into long-term contracts with the County to purchase storage water to augment river flows for improving effluent assimilation. Douglas County has published augmentation requirements to rectify flow deficiencies from May through October in the Elk Creek subbasin.

Elk Creek has high turbidity and color levels. Color affects the stream's esthetic appeal while turbidity can increase treatment costs and limit municipal and industrial use. Turbidity can be caused by streambank erosion, stream bottom erosion, and land management practices. High turbidity and color levels are greatest during high runoff months and are most likely associated with deciduous leaf fall and streambank erosion. Elk Creek subbasin needs better land management to help reduce sediment transport, color, and turbidity levels.

The principal problem with water temperature is the effect it has on cold water fish, such as salmon and steelhead. Salmon eggs are extremely sensitive to temperature. Eggs are harmed when temperatures exceed 56 °F. Mortality begins at 57.5 °F. Young fish are able to tolerate temperatures as high as 65 to 70 °F for short periods of time. Stream temperatures measured in Elk Creek near river miles 42.2 and 25 indicate that temperatures at these sites regularly exceed these temperatures. Spot measurements in Elk Creek near Elkton show periodic temperatures exceeding 80 °F. Data indicates that the timing of critical temperatures in Elk Creek occur as noted below:

- Near Elkhead ----- June through early September.
- Near Drain ----- late May through early October.
- Near Elkton ----- May through October.

Elk Creek needs lower water temperatures during these critical times. Low flows and sparse riparian canopy in certain stream reaches contribute to the temperature problem. High temperatures, in turn, contribute to dissolved oxygen problems. The stream needs 1.5 to 2.0 miles of improved riparian vegetation and augmented summer flows to help reduce temperature.

Water samples taken near river mile 42.2 (approximately 2.8 miles upstream from the damsite and 0.5 miles downstream from the abandoned Elkhead mercury mines) indicate elevated concentrations of cadmium, chromium, copper, lead, mercury, and zinc. However, these concentrations are within Federal and State water quality standards for safe drinking water.

The Elkhead mercury mine operated near the proposed reservoir. A survey of the abandoned mercury mine, tailings, and water sources in and near the mine indicates potential contamination. The potential for contamination from the Elkhead Mercury Mine site needs to be monitored.

1.2.7 Municipal Water

The Cities of Drain and Yoncalla have attempted to augment their water supplies by constructing small storage reservoirs to help meet municipal demands during the dry summer months. The city of Drain has constructed a 290 acre-foot reservoir on Billy Creek, which serves the City of Drain. Yoncalla has an offstream, 100-acre foot storage reservoir, which is filled by pumping water from Adams Creek. The reservoir helps meet peak summer demands. The subbasin has no other significant water storage facilities.

The two communities have surface water rights for municipal water. The City of Drain has a 1909 priority right for 2 cfs and a 1912 priority right for an additional 2 cfs from Bear Creek (a tributary of Billy Creek). It also has a 1971 storage right for 1,000 acre-feet on Billy Creek. These rights are adequate to meet present needs, however the flow yields on Bear Creek are not adequate, and the existing reservoir on Billy Creek cannot meet the municipal demands of the future.

Yoncalla has a 1923 priority right for 1.5 cfs from West Fork Wilson Creek, Wilson Creek, and Adams Creek, and a 1940 priority right for 0.23 cfs from Adams Creek. It also has a 1979 storage right for 111.5 acre-feet. The existing 100-acre foot reservoir is located offstream in the Yoncalla Valley. The reservoir is filled by pumping water from Adams Creek. The water rights appear to be adequate, but the opportunity to develop them is limited. Adams Creek has recorded zero flows at times which makes the supplies unreliable. Yoncalla's reservoir is shallow, suffering from algae growth and high temperatures, which adversely affects the water's palatability.

There is a need to develop a source of water for Drain, Rice Hill and Yoncalla which is both reliable and adequate for present and future demands. Based on population projections, the cities of Drain, Rice Hill and Yoncalla will need 1,405 acre-feet of water to meet the needs through the year 2030.

1.2.8 Rural Domestic Water

Rural domestic water is classified as water obtained from individual sources, not from any water vending entity. Most often, ground water is obtained from individual private wells. Occasionally, a larger well or series of wells benefit a group of residents.

Surface waters are not generally diverted for rural domestic use because of the cost of potable treatment. The rural population growth in Elk Creek subbasin has recently outpaced the growth in the two cities. This indicates a trend for the need of a central water supply to serve rural domestic needs in the future. The

County has estimated rural demand will increase from 822 acre-feet in 1980 to 1,164 acre-feet in 2030.

1.2.9 Industrial Water

Industrial water use from Elk Creek is limited to two rights for log storage ponds, totaling 1.02 cfs. Future industrial use in the Elk Creek subbasin is expected to be limited to sand and gravel operations. This use would require about 25 acre-feet per month from May through October for a total of 150 acre-feet annually.

At the present time, there does not appear to be a reliable source of water available for industry. Costs associated with the treatment of municipal water are prohibitive for most industrial applications. A new source of water is needed to provide industrial opportunities and diversification of the economy.

1.2.10 Irrigation

The hilly topography in the Elk Creek subbasin supports lush unirrigated pasture part of the year, which contributes to the predominance of sheep and livestock production. However, little land is suitable for the production of crops that require annual tillage. Orchards and some specialty crops such as wine grapes have been produced in the past, but distance to markets and processing costs are excessive for the volume produced. Local production has not been adequate to attract processing facilities or markets.

Agricultural areas in the subbasin receive approximately 40 inches of rain per year, but it is concentrated in the months of October through April. The area experiences very dry conditions July through September, resulting in low streamflows, thereby restricting the water available to irrigate crops at critical growth periods. There is no irrigation storage facility to provide water during these dry summer months. As many as 7,377 acres of potentially irrigable land has been identified in the subbasin. Irrigation of this land could help the County achieve its goal to diversify and strengthen the local economy. The maximum legal water duty in Douglas County is 2.5 acre-feet per acre per year. This indicates that the subbasin needs 18,450 acre-feet per year to develop its land base. Irrigating less than 7,377 acres of land or using less than 2.5 acre-feet of water per acre would reduce the annual water need for irrigation. Development of this land could also require development of drains to avoid high water table problems.

Because the State established minimum flow requirements on Elk Creek in 1974, water rights established after that time do not receive a full supply in most years. Further, commercial

agriculture is not protected in times of drought or extreme low flow, and many pre-1974 rights are also turned off early in many years.

The District 15 Watermaster has indicated that water rights established before 1950 generally have a full supply of water each year. Priority rights established between 1950 and 1974 normally begin to be curtailed around the end of July in most years. Diversions with priorities after 1974 are normally cut off about July 1. Applying this schedule to existing irrigated acreage, between 350 and 680 acres receive a full supply; about 740 acres get water until July 31; and 73 acres receive water until June 30 in most years.

Junior water right holders on Elk Creek frequently lose their water supply in the latter part of the summer. These junior rights need a supplementary supply in order to fully utilize the land's potential. The current uncertain water supply has prevented farmers from optimizing the productivity of their lands and has prevented the County from realizing the full economic potential of its land resources.

Approximately 897 acres of land need supplemental water service. The average annual water needed to fully supply these lands is 1 acre-foot per acre, or an average annual water need of 897 acre-feet.

1.2.11 Outdoor Recreation

Current outdoor recreation opportunities in the Elk Creek subbasin are relatively few. There are no destination resorts in the area, due to the lack of large County, State or Federal recreation areas, and the lack of water-oriented recreation facilities. Most of the land is privately owned. This precludes the development of any large scale public outdoor recreation activities.

The development of a large water-oriented facility in the subbasin would partially fill the current void of recreation opportunities, thereby attracting local and regional visitors. Increased recreational opportunities would result in increasing the area's share of the County's tourist industry. There is a need for water-oriented recreation facilities.

1.2.12 Flood Control

Elk Creek has no flood control structures. High winter streamflows damage both urban and rural property. Property damage caused by flooding tends to be concentrated in the City of Drain where industrial, commercial, public, and residential developments

are located on the flood plains of Elk Creek and Pass Creek.

Pass Creek enters Elk Creek within the boundaries of the City of Drain. During high flow periods, backflows from Elk Creek enter the lower reaches of Pass Creek and exacerbate flood damages near their confluence. Damages to agricultural lands and woodlots occur in the rural areas both upstream and downstream of Drain. Bridges in Drain and in the outlying areas are subject to damage from high floodflows. The largest flood of record, estimated to be greater than a 50-year recurrence interval flood, occurred on February 10, 1961, when a maximum instantaneous flow of 19,000 cfs was recorded on Elk Creek downstream of its confluence with Yoncalla Creek. Studies performed by the County and the Corps of Engineers estimated flood damages that are anticipated with each size flood. The results of these studies indicate the average annual flood damage in the subbasin approximates \$205,000 (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 1988).

Flood control in Elk Creek would require keeping flood flows in channel and out of flood plains, or by developing an upstream storage facility capable of storing water during periods of peak runoff. Land use changes can also reduce flood damage.

1.2.13 Wetlands

Wetlands habitat in the potentially irrigable areas have been greatly degraded by land practices. Historically, there were agricultural lands which contained high value seasonal wetlands. Much of this land has lost its wetland characteristics due to farming and draining operations. However, some lands still meet the definition of jurisdictional wetlands by soil, hydrologic, and vegetation criteria. These lands are scattered through Scotts and Yoncalla Valleys and along Elk Creek and its tributaries. These remaining wetlands need protection. Measures should be taken to protect wetlands where possible.

1.3 Summary

Problems in the Elk Creek subbasin relate to lack of adequate summer flows. This is graphically shown in Figure 1-1. Historic flows are low; demands exceeded availability during summer months in 1980 and the trend of increased demand will continue. The estimated shortage of water under current conditions is 6,271 acre-feet. The estimated shortage of water will continue to increase and by year 2030 will be 27,000 acre-feet. The shortage has the following effects:

- Whenever water users cannot receive the amount of water they need, land productivity suffers, local economy is weakened, and water users are less likely to make investments that would enhance the economic value of their land.
- Fishery resources suffer when users deplete Elk Creek of water to the point that fish rearing areas dry up or become stagnant. The long-term effect of this is decreased commercial and sport fishing in the ocean and in the Umpqua River Basin.
- The depleted state of Elk Creek during the peak demand period in the summer severely restricts economic development in the subbasin. Since an alternative ground-water resource is not available for economic growth, the lack of a surface water resource means that growth is not possible.

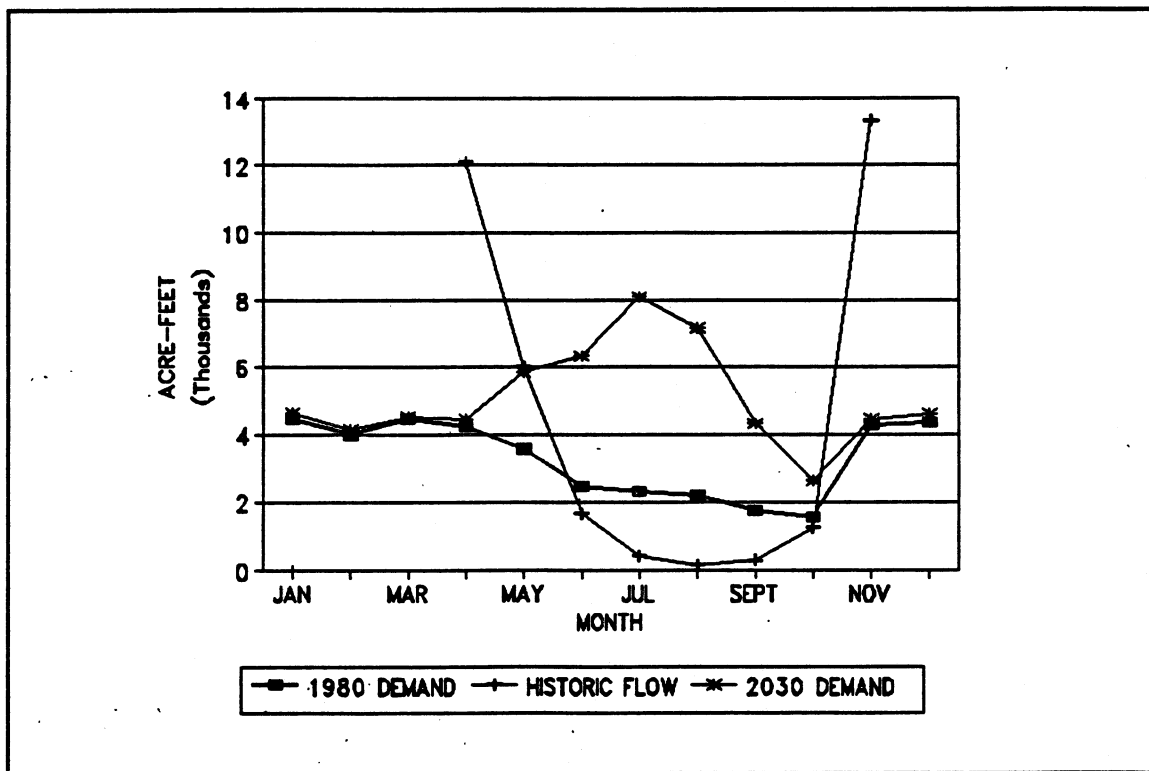


Figure 1-1. Comparison of Historic Flow with 1980 and 2030 Demands on Elk Creek (Bureau of Reclamation, 1991).

2.0 ALTERNATIVES

2.1 Alternative Selection Process

In 1956, Douglas County (County) began investigations of possible alternatives for providing an adequate water supply for the needs in Elk Creek subbasin (Bureau of Reclamation, 1956). The long period of investigation and study reflects the difficulty of finding solutions to meet existing and future water needs in the Elk Creek subbasin. Various studies were initiated including mapping, aerial photogrammetry, geological and physical characterization, evaluation of water needs of the service areas, costs of construction and operation, and environmental conditions. In these investigations, County consulted and cooperated with federal, state, and local agencies, and the public to determine their concerns and to solicit their comments and expertise (See: Section 4, Consultation and Coordination).

The selection of alternatives to be investigated in the Elk Creek subbasin was based primarily on the following criteria:

- Geologic integrity of storage site.
- Adequate water yield at each alternative site.
- Storage sites having capacities up to 50,000 acre-feet to provide for the anticipated needs for fisheries, municipal, industrial, irrigation, and flood control.
- Service to two major agricultural valleys (Scotts and Yoncalla).
- Anticipated adverse impacts to the area including loss or decrease of service area, cost of relocation of highways and utilities, unavoidable loss of natural resources, and changes in land use.
- Municipal and industrial water needs of the cities of Drain and Yoncalla.
- Acceptability to the public.
- Capability of providing new water-based recreational activities.
- Cost effectiveness (financially feasible to the County).
- Site must be high in the watershed, to lessen, as much as possible, the impacts on the spawning habitat of anadromous fish.

- The project must provide the potential for improving anadromous fisheries habitat.

The alternative selection process evolved over a 35-year period. The process considered sites of varying storage capacities for structural alternatives. The structural alternatives consisted of storage sites for construction of a dam, reservoir, and appurtenant facilities. Other alternatives considered were interbasin transfers of water and pumping from ground water sources. Non-structural alternatives considered were water conservation and retirement of irrigation land.

Using the above criteria, and after collection of necessary data and performing studies to determine the physical conditions of all alternatives, the preferred alternative was selected, because:

- Estimated water yield above the damsite is adequate for present and future needs.
- The site would have a storage capacity of 24,143 acre-feet, capable of providing the present and anticipated needs for fisheries habitat enhancement, municipal and industrial water, rural domestic water, and irrigation water. It would also provide some flood control.
- The site would provide irrigation capabilities to 4,661 acres of agricultural lands in Scotts Valley and Yoncalla Valley, and lands adjacent to the lower reaches of Elk Creek.
- The site is geologically acceptable.
- The site would provide adequate year-long water for municipal and industrial use in the cities of Yoncalla and Drain and in the community of Rice Hill, and numerous rural residences.
- The site is overwhelmingly acceptable to the public.
- The site is high in the watershed and would eliminate only 4 1/2 miles of anadromous fish habitat. Fish habitat would be enhanced on 39 miles of stream below the reservoir.
- The site would result in minimal adverse impacts to existing land use, transportation systems, and rural residents. However the site would result in the loss of 260 acres of grass pasture land, 364 acres of commercial forest land, and 681 acres of wildlife habitat. The latter would be mitigated.

- Construction and operation of the site would be cost-effective.
- The 681 acre reservoir would provide new opportunities for flat-water recreation of boating, and fishing, and waterfowl hunting.
- The reservoir and adjacent areas would provide new habitat for eagles and osprey.
- Operation of the project would provide opportunities for industrial diversification and urban growth.
- The project would improve water quality, and alleviate adverse water quality conditions caused by waste discharges in the Elk Creek subbasin.
- Arable lands which meet wetlands criteria would be excluded from the project service area.

The preferred alternative would meet all of the municipal and industrial water needs through the year 2030, and perhaps beyond. Instream habitat for anadromous fish would be enhanced between the dam and the mouth of Elk Creek and in the lower reaches of Yoncalla Creek and Adams Creek. The irrigation component would meet all of the supplemental irrigation needs. It would not necessarily provide enough water to develop all arable lands, but would meet needs of those showing interest through owner surveys. The preferred alternative would provide a reduction in the flood level in the city of Drain.

Under the Bureau of Reclamation Small Reclamation Projects Act of 1956 (SRPA) and the Douglas County Water Resources Management Program (Douglas County, 1989), the County has determined that the Preferred Alternative is financially feasible. The municipal and industrial and flood control proposals are cost efficient. The fishery proposal would be cost efficient since the project would result in decreasing downstream temperatures within the biological needs for anadromous fish rearing in Elk Creek.

Mitigation of project impacts on wildlife is achievable. A mitigation proposal has been developed in cooperation with the Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The proposal contains elements to mitigate or avoid wetland habitat losses which is a national priority. One mitigation element includes securing habitat for the endangered Columbian white-tailed deer. Under Federal formulation criteria (which would require only minimum basic facilities), the proposed recreation developments would not be cost-effective. However, the level of recreation development desired by the county makes the increment financially feasible (Bureau of Reclamation,

1991).

The preferred alternative has received acceptance at the local level. Local demand for such a project has been voiced since about 1955 (See: Section 1.0, Purpose and Need). Those who would be most immediately affected, residents of the area that would be inundated, support the project. The environmental community has been notified of the project. No opposition has been identified. State and Federal fish and wildlife agencies have been involved in formulating the project. Those agencies have not expressed adverse reactions.

Basic elements of the preferred alternative have received public review through the Douglas County Comprehensive Plan development process (Douglas County Planning Department, 1989). The preferred alternative meets the objectives of the Comprehensive Plan, since it would partially fulfill the County's economic development goal. The alternative is also compatible with existing State and local laws and regulations.

2.2 Preferred Alternative

2.2.1 Purpose

A project at the Milltown Hill Dam site (Figures S-1 and 2-1) would serve portions of Elk Creek subbasin downstream from the site. It would, primarily, provide water for anadromous fish, municipal, industrial, rural domestic, and irrigation uses. Secondary benefits would include resident fish and wildlife habitat enhancement, flood control, new recreational opportunities, and water quality enhancement.

2.2.2 Description

2.2.2.1 Dam

The project would consist of a 24,143 acre-foot reservoir at river mile 39.4 on Elk Creek (See: Appendix A for drawings of the dam). A 186 foot-high dam (hydraulic height) would inundate 681 acres of land at the 775 foot mean sea level (msl) elevation at normal (full) pool. The reservoir would impound about 4 1/2 miles of Elk Creek and 2 miles of tributaries (Table 2-1 and Figure 2-2). Excavation for construction of the dam would require removal of approximately 300,000 cubic yards of overburden and rock. The material would be backhauled and used for the fill required for the relocation of Scotts Valley road at the south end of the reservoir and for development of the recreation areas (Bureau of Reclamation, 1991).

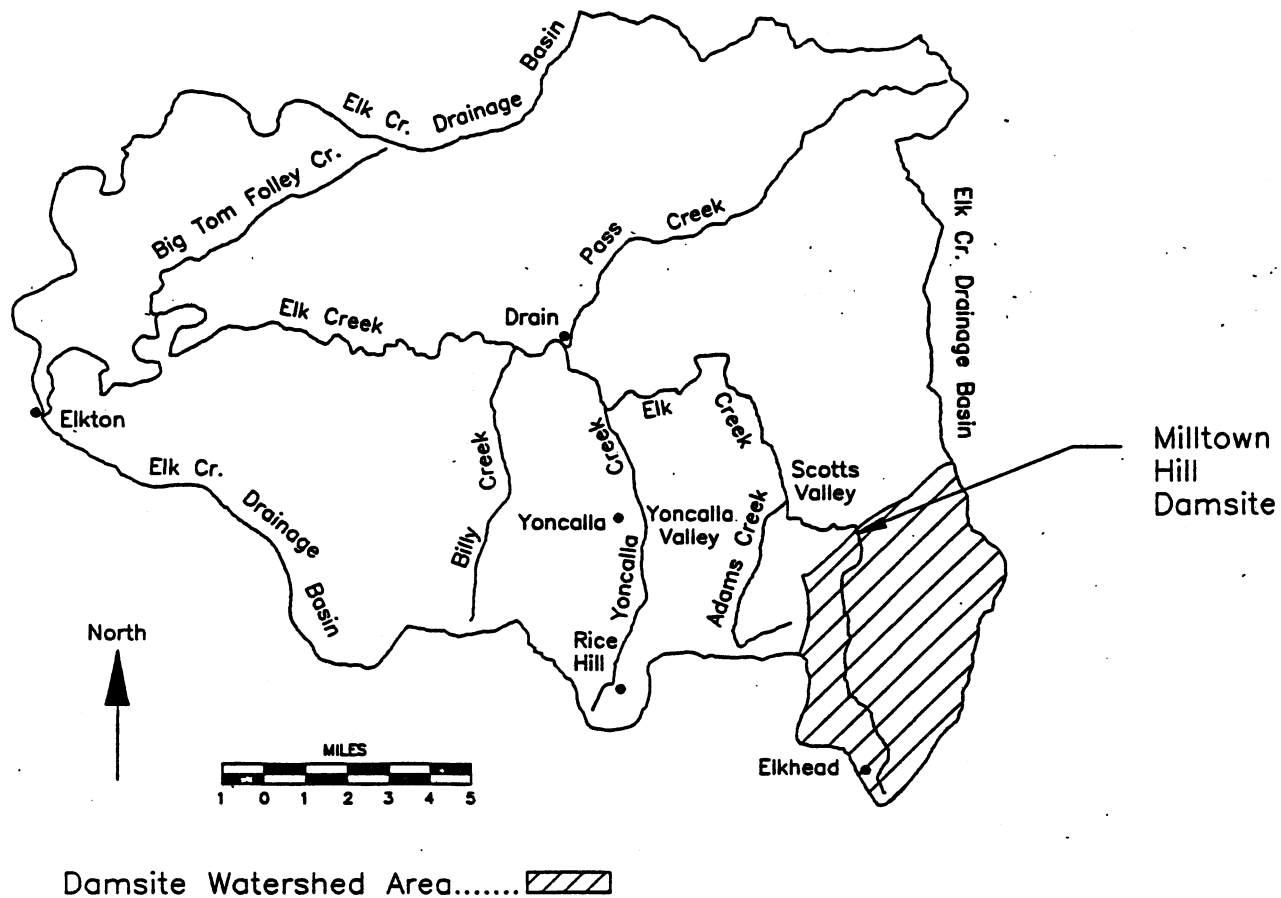


Figure 2-1
Milltown Hill Project
Milltown Hill Watershed

Table 2-1. Description of Milltown Dam and Related Facilities.

DAM TYPE

Roller-compacted concrete gravity

Structural height	186 feet
Hydraulic height	179 feet
Crest elevation	786 feet msl
Crest length	1,050 feet
Crest width	17 feet
Downstream slope	0.75:1
Upstream slope	Near Vertical
Volume	234,000 cubic yards

SPILLWAY

Type	uncontrolled center overflow
Crest elevation	775 feet msl
Spillway crest length	100 feet
Spillway capacity (inflow design flood)	15,235 cubic feet/second

OUTLET WORKS

Multilevel structure

Type	Single tower, moveable inlet
Outlet conduit size	1-36 inch diameter
Operating range (sill/elevation)	Elevation 765 to 720 feet msl

Low level structure

Type	Conventional-stationary
Outlet conduit size	1-48 inch diameter
Inlet elevation	650 feet msl
Maximum capacity	600 cubic feet/second
Bifurcations	Pressure pipeline Hydroelectric stub

Valves

1 fixed cone outlet valve
4 butterfly control valve

DIVERSION WORKS

Type	Temporary-to be plugged after construction
Conduit size	5-foot diameter
Maximum capacity	400 cubic feet/second with cofferdam

STORAGE

Total capacity	24,143 acre-feet
Dead (107 ac-ft) and inactive capacity (393 ac-ft)	500 acre-feet
Municipal and industrial	937 acre-feet
Irrigation	9,654 acre-feet
Flow for anadromous fish and temperature control	7,737 acre-feet
Carryover	5,315 acre-feet
Reservoir length (full pool)	4.5 miles
Shoreline (full pool)	13.2 miles

Source: Bureau of Reclamation, 1991.

TOWNSHIP 23 SOUTH, RANGE 4 WEST

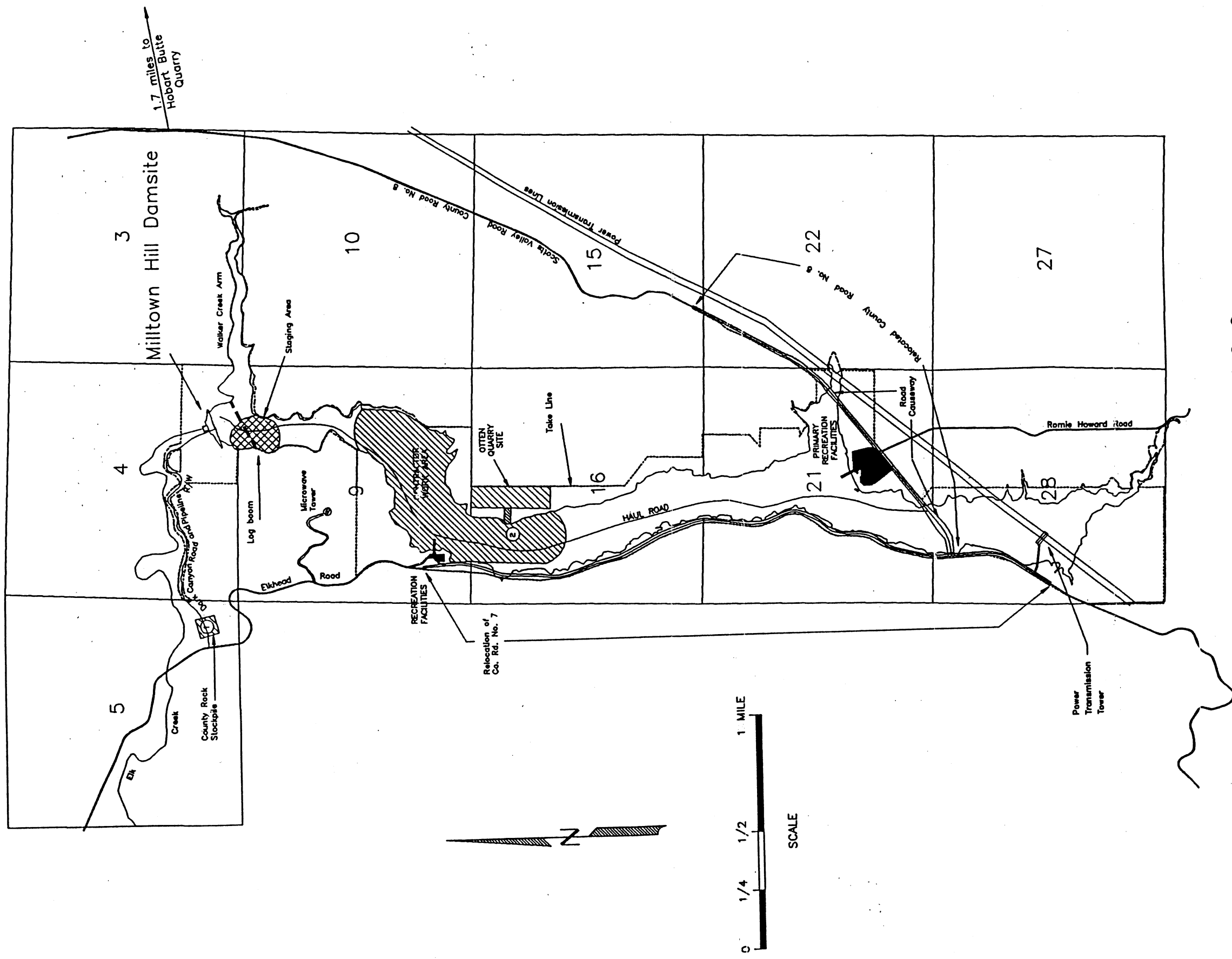


FIGURE 2-2
MILLTOWN HILL PROJECT
PROJECT FEATURES

2.2.2.2 Storage Allocations

The reservoir would have a total storage capacity of 24,143 acre-feet, allocated among its principal uses (Table 2-1). The active storage allocation would be made as follows: anadromous fisheries and water temperature control: 7,737 acre-feet; municipal and industrial: 937 acre-feet; and irrigation: 9,654 acre-feet; (Bureau of Reclamation, 1991). About 107 acre-feet of the 500 acre-feet of dead and inactive storage is not accessible since it is below the sill of the low level intake at 650 feet (msl). The 5,315 acre feet of carryover could allow filling of the reservoir during the following year depending on water year. Based on an area capacity curve (See: Appendix A), area and storage at normal full pool, average drawdown, and maximum drawdown are as follows:

<u>POOL</u>	<u>Elevation</u>	<u>Surface Area</u>	<u>Storage</u>
Normal Full pool	775 feet msl	681 acres	24,143 acre-feet
Average drawdown (annual)	736 feet msl	256 acres	6,193 acre-feet
Maximum drawdown (drought)	688 feet msl	22 acres	543 acre-feet

The project would not affect prior water rights, including instream water rights to protect aquatic resources.

2.2.2.3 Intake Structure

The intake structure for the low level outlet would consist of a rectangular shaft with a horizontal sill at elevation 650 (See: Appendix A). A trashrack would be mounted above the sill. A square bellmouth would be provided at the entrance, on the face of the dam. A bulkhead gate would be provided for dewatering. The sill would be located at elevation 650 to provide adequate protection for the inlet. The intake would be high enough to provide protection from siltation for up to 100 years.

The variable depth intake would operate between sill elevation 765 and elevation 720. The inlet structure would consist of a reinforced concrete and steel sleeve, fixed to the lower portion of the dam, and an upper steel pipe section capable of sliding vertically in the sleeve. The inlet, which is fixed to the upper steelpipe, would consist of a converging "funnel" drop type intake having a trashrack above. Due to trashrack and inlet submergence requirements, the inlet sill would operate through a range that is at least 10 feet below these elevations. In the fully raised position (sill elevation 765), approximately 5 feet of pipe would

remain in the lower sleeve. A bulkhead gate would not be provided for the water quality intake, since the inlet can be raised out of the reservoir during medium and low reservoir periods (Bureau of Reclamation, 1991).

2.2.2.4 Outlet Works

The outlet works would consist of 2 structures as described above. One structure would have a variable depth port between 765 and 720 feet msl. The second would have a fixed low level outlet at 650 feet msl. Stored water would be withdrawn from different zones (between 650 and 760) in the reservoir to optimize fisheries enhancement (flows and water temperatures). This configuration would allow blending of flows between the 2 structures to achieve water temperature control, although irrigation, municipal and industrial water supply, and flood control do not require temperature control. All releases would be suitable for aquatic life. (Bureau of Reclamation, 1991).

Oregon State law (Oregon Revised Statutes - ORS 540.350) requires that provisions be made on all new water storage projects for future hydroelectric development. In response to this requirement, a 42-inch diameter stub-off pipe and shutoff valve would be located at the downstream toe of the dam, near the outlet works stilling basin. With the present design, future construction of a small powerplant could be accomplished without major modifications to the project.

2.2.2.5 Water Distribution System

Lands that are included in the project service area would meet 3 criteria:

- They are classified as irrigable according to the Bureau of Reclamation criteria.
- Douglas County requires that the lands had to be serviceable from either a gravity pressure pipeline or directly serviceable from Elk Creek.
- In order to be serviceable from Elk Creek, the land needs to be within 1 mile of Elk Creek and require no more than 150 feet of pump lift.

The project would release most of the stored water through a gravity pressure pipeline to the Yoncalla and Scotts Valleys areas for irrigation, municipal, industrial, rural domestic, and anadromous fish uses. The cost of all needed water treatment

facilities would be borne by the users. Irrigation water would be supplied seasonally while all other water would be supplied year round or as required. Water would be supplied to users in lower Elk Creek by pumping directly from Elk Creek. Figure 2-3 shows the location of the proposed 19.6-mile pipeline system. The pipeline diameter at the head of the system would be 30 inches. Pipe diameter would decrease to 6 inches in service areas near the end of the system. All water delivery points from the pipeline would be metered (Bureau of Reclamation, 1991).

Water taken directly from Elk Creek by irrigators would be pumped through 2 to 8 inch pipelines and be distributed to sprinkler systems.

2.2.2.6 Drainage System

Irrigation return flows are anticipated to be 19 percent of delivered water volume (Douglas County Water Resources Survey, 1991). A fund would be established to provide on-farm drainage, if needed.

Installation of the drainage system for irrigation return flows would be a future project feature as indicated by ground water levels. It would be funded as needed from the County through sale of irrigation water (Myers, 1992).

An irrigation return flow system (sub-surface drainage system) would involve networks of 6 inch perforated tubing placed in a dendritic pattern in each irrigated field, to allow for the collection of soil moisture excess to crop root needs. The pipe would be buried in a trench 2 feet wide and up to six feet deep. If drainage is supplied to all irrigated lands in the service area, then up to 15.6 acres of land could be disturbed. Areas which may require sub-surface drainage systems are shown below:

<u>Area</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Feet of Pipe per Acre</u>	<u>Total Pipe Length (feet)</u>	<u>Width of Trench (feet)</u>	<u>Acres Disturbed</u>
Yoncalla Valley	748	264	197,472	2	9.1
Upper Elk Creek	248	194	48,112	2	2.2
Scotts Valley	428	185	79,180	2	3.6
Lower Elk Creek	145	102	14,790	2	0.7
Totals	1,569		339,554		15.6

Source: Myers, 1992

The perforated pipe would be surrounded by a gravel envelope. The trench would be backfilled and excess soil windrowed along the route of the trench. Spacing of the pipe would depend upon the hydraulic conductivity of the particular field. Drain outlets

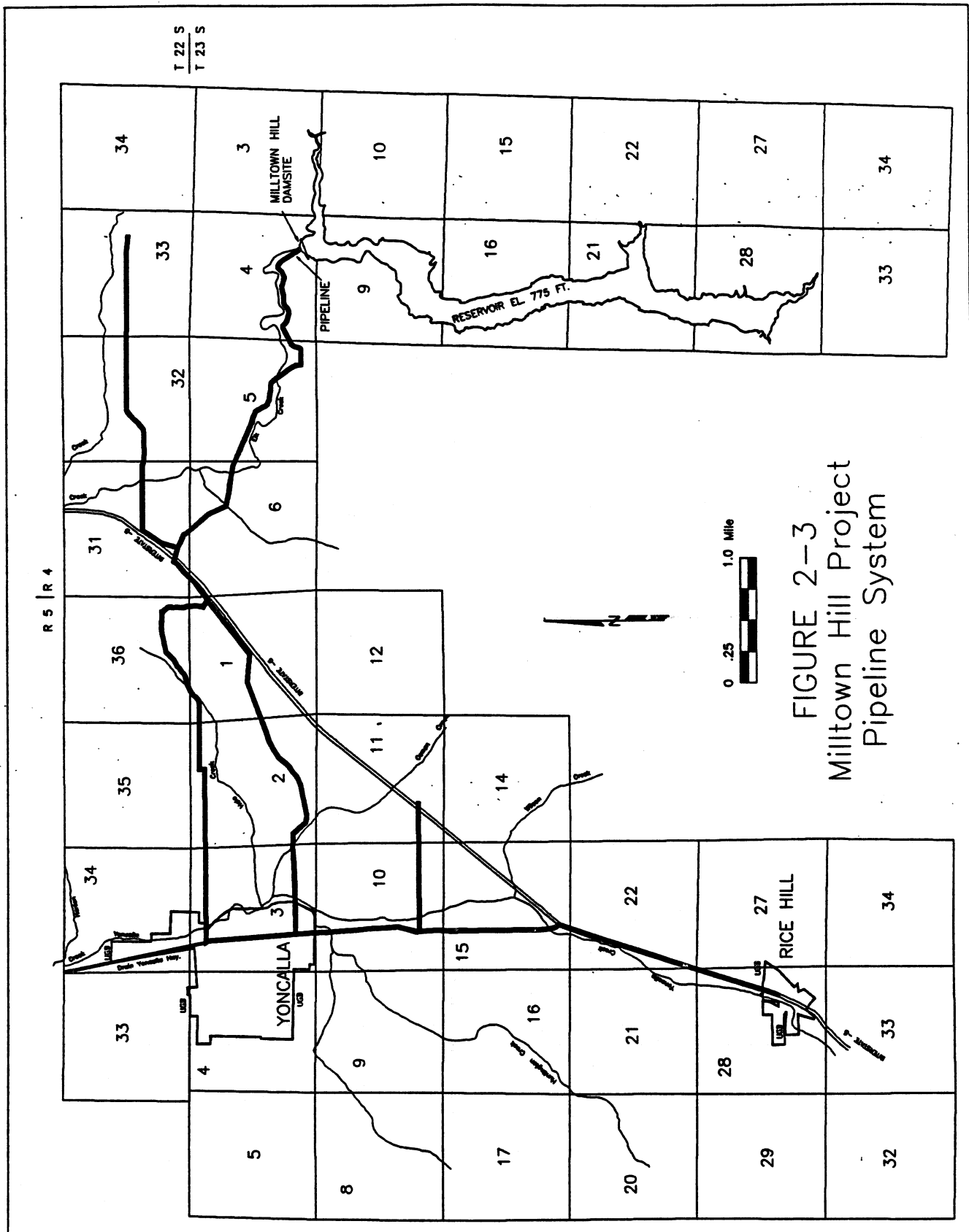


FIGURE 2-3
Milltown Hill Project
Pipeline System

would be placed to discharge water into existing surface waterways whenever possible. If the drainage pattern for a field prohibits the above, an outlet conduit would be located at the lower end of the drain field and extended to the nearest natural drainage for discharge.

Irrigation uphill from a particular field could cause sub-surface water to move into the root zone of a lower field. An interceptor drain would be provided in these instances. It would consist of the same type of perforated tube in a sub-surface gravel envelope at a depth suitable to intercept the water and transport it to an outlet to an existing surface water channel. These conditions could occur in the easterly draws of Scotts Valley and along Elk Creek in tributary valleys.

Typical outlet works would range from a horizontal pipe protruding from the bank of an intermittent waterway, to small concrete or rip-rap head- and wing-walls enclosing the horizontal pipe outlet to a "major" creek channel.

Some lands not now irrigated would require grading of portions of a field that are not jurisdictional wetlands to prevent intermittent surface ponding and aggravation of root-zone excess moisture conditions. Such surface drainage improvements would consist of filling depressions and constructing broad, shallow v-shaped waterways such that normal agricultural equipment operation would not be disrupted, to transport water off a field to an existing drainage channel. The gradients of these waterways would be designed well below rates that would produce erosion under all flow conditions. Sod could be placed in the waterways, as a further erosion reduction aid.

No project drainage or change in agricultural practices would occur to negatively affect jurisdictional wetlands. This would be enforced by County with a wetland protective clause in the water service contract between the County and individual water user. This would be discussed with the water user at the time the water service contract is negotiated.

2.2.2.7 Roads

The reservoir would inundate about 3 miles of Elkhead road and Scotts Valley road. A new service road would be constructed into the base of the damsite (Figure 2-2). About 3 miles of Elkhead Road (County Road #7) which traverses the western rim of the reservoir, would be affected. This road, which carries about 300 cars per day, extends about 15 miles from the I-5 intersection at milepost 154 to a junction at the Driver Valley Road near the city of Oakland. The road would be relocated at approximately 785 feet msl, less than 1/8 mile west of the present location. Elkhead Road would provide access to a recreation area on the northwest side of

the reservoir.

The reservoir would also affect the Scotts Valley Road (County Road #8). This road begins at a junction with the Elkhead Road near Interstate 5 and swings to the east and then to the south where it again joins the Elkhead Road near the south end of the proposed reservoir (Figure 2-2). This road, which carries about 100 cars per day, has about 4 miles of paved surface and 5 miles of all-weather gravel surface. The south end of the Scotts Valley Road would be re-aligned to join the existing Elkhead Road. A causeway would connect the east and west sides of the reservoir.

A 1-mile maintenance road would be constructed from the present Elkhead Road (near the present site of the county rock stockpile) to the downstream side of the dam. The road surface would consist of crushed rock on a 14-foot wide right-of-way. This road right-of-way would also include a 7-foot utility corridor right-of-way for the 30-inch pipeline and a powerline to the dam.

2.2.2.8 Utilities

Construction of the dam and the reservoir would require relocating four utilities and installation of a new powerline. Sprint long distance telephone lines (fiber optic), Douglas Electric Cooperative power lines, and Pacific Power and Light Company's three main power lines would be affected.

Telephone lines are currently buried within County Road rights-of-way. These lines would be moved at the utility's costs when the road is relocated. Douglas County notified Sprint of the proposed dam and reservoir at Milltown Hill when it installed its long-distance line, and the company agreed to move the line at its own expense should the dam be constructed.

Douglas Electric Cooperative currently has its powerline along County Road #7 right-of-way on the west side of the reservoir. The utility would place a new powerline down the west side of the reservoir along the new road right-of-way.

Pacific Power and Light Company has one 115 kilovolt and two 230 kilovolt lines crossing the southern end of the reservoir. One 230 kilovolt line will be replaced in 1992 by a 500 kilovolt line. The County would construct an island which would act as a base for transmission towers in the south end of the reservoir area (Figure 2-2). Steel transmission towers would be built on each side of the reservoir to support the lines as they span the reservoir. This arrangement would allow sufficient clearance above the reservoir for safety purposes. The material for the island would be taken from an upland area west of the proposed island.

A new 3-phase powerline would be required to provide power to

the control structure at the dam. The powerline would be built in the road right-of-way for Dark Canyon Road (Figure 2-2). The line would be about 1 mile long.

2.2.2.9 Microwave Tower

A microwave tower would be sited on Milltown hill in the NW1/4 NE1/4, Section 9. T.23S., R.4W. (Figure 2-2). The structure would be a 60 feet high self-supporting tower at an elevation of 1139 feet msl. Electronic equipment would be located in a building about 10 X 15 feet and 8 feet high. Site power would be provided by a spur from the existing 115 KV line which parallels County road 7. The microwave tower would allow project monitoring and control from Roseburg, and also improve FAA and local law enforcement agency communications systems (Motorola Microwave Field Engineering, 1990).

2.2.2.10 Recreation Facilities

Two recreation areas would be constructed at the reservoir site (Figures 2-2 and 2-4). These recreation areas would be designed for day use only. The primary recreation area would be located on the southeast side of the reservoir near the location of the realigned County Road 8. Overburden from the dam site would be placed and shaped on the site to improve it. The site would be landscaped for appearance and utility purposes. This site would include parking facilities for 133 single vehicles or 53 single vehicles and 40 vehicles with trailers. The site would have 28 picnic sites that include 1 or 2 tables and 1 firebox each. The picnic area would also include 1 garbage can and 1 fountain with hose bib for every 4 sites. The site would include a 32-foot by 84-foot pavilion with restrooms in one end. A restroom would be located near the boat ramp. The boat ramp would be 55 feet wide, constructed of concrete, and would have a trolley type launching dock (Horn, 1990).

A site on the northwest side of the reservoir, would include parking, a boat ramp, a picnic area, and sanitation facilities. Parking facilities would have space for 52 single vehicles or 29 vehicles with trailers and 4 single vehicles. The boat ramp, a 50-foot-wide concrete feature with a trolley type launching dock, would be extended to provide access during periods of extreme drawdown. The picnic area would consist of 7 sites with 1 garbage can and 1 fountain with hose bib for every 4 sites. Each picnic site would have 1 or 2 tables and 1 firebox. Sanitation facilities would consist of pit toilets. This recreation site would be considered the secondary recreation area although it would provide the most direct access from I-5, and would be more useable as annual drawdown progresses.

TOWNSHIP 23 SOUTH, RANGE 4 WEST

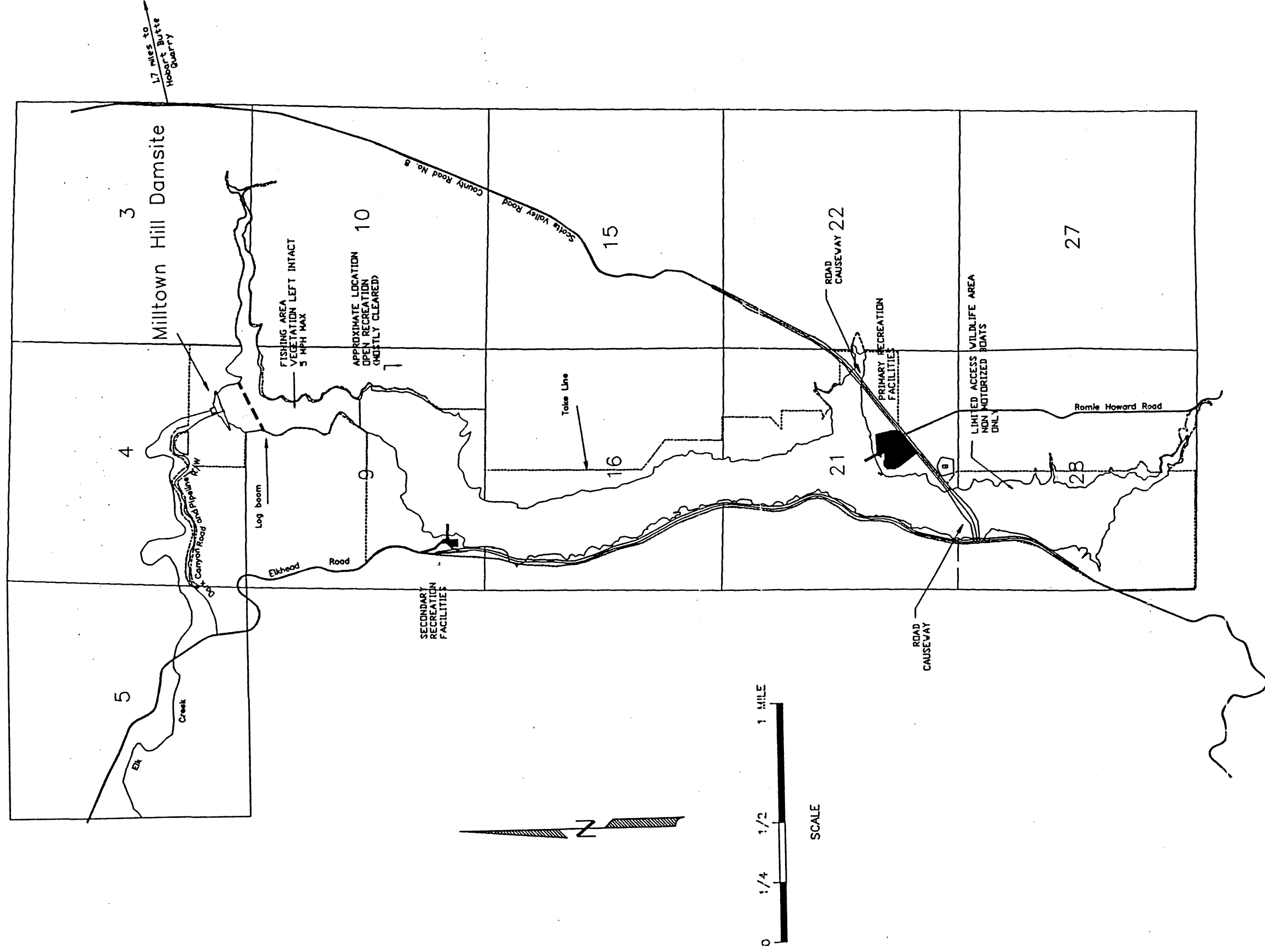


FIGURE 2-4
Milltown Hill Project
Recreation Facilities

Both sites would be furnished with underground electrical power and handicapped access (Horn, 1990).

2.2.2.11 Other Facilities

2.2.2.11.1 Quarry

The County would use the on-site Otten Quarry, (Figure 2-2), in Section 16, T.23S., R.4W. This site is about 15 acres and extends from elevation 800 to 1,100 msl, with most of the area between 900 and 1,000 msl. It is about 200 horizontal feet from the 775 foot level of the pool. About 300,000 cubic yards of rock would be extracted and moved to the contractor work area for processing into various sizes necessary for incorporation into the roller-compacted concrete (RCC) mix for construction of the dam. Although about 98% of the sand necessary will be produced from crushing activities on-site, it will be necessary to transport about 2% from existing commercial mining operations. The Hobart Butte Quarry is an optional source of rock. It is located on Bureau of Land Management land about 1.7 miles east of County Road #8 (Figure 2-2). If the Hobart Butte site is selected, Douglas County in consultation with the Bureau of Land Management would prepare a mine development plan and address impacts for NEPA compliance.

2.2.2.11.2 Contractor Work Area

A contractor work area would be required for various activities (Figure 2-2). The work area would be used for processing the rock to a final aggregate for the processing plant. Aggregate would be stockpiled in the contractor's work area or in the staging area. The rock would be crushed to sizes desired and washed, if required, to remove fines. The washing process would include 2 or 3 ponds placed in series to allow the fines to settle. The size of the ponds would be from 1/4 to 1 acre in size. Periodic releases of less than 1/2 cfs of water would be necessary for exchange water. Prior to discharge, from the second or third pond, wash water would be filtered through straw bales, or similar filter material, to remove suspended material. Other purposes of the contractor work area would be for storage of materials, location of field offices, and parking of vehicles and construction equipment.

2.2.2.11.3 Staging Area

The contractor would develop a staging area for project activities (Figure 2-2). The primary facility would be the RCC batch plant. Aggregate for use in the batch plant would be stockpiled in the staging area or in the contractors work area,

depending on the contractor's operation. The RCC mix would be prepared at the staging area and delivered by conveyor or truck to the dam.

2.2.2.11.4 Construction Haul Road

A haul road would be constructed to move overburden materials from the dam site to the southern end of the reservoir for the purposes of reshaping the primary recreation site on the south end of the reservoir (Figure 2-2). It would also be used to move construction materials to and from the dam site and other construction areas. The road would consist of a graded, stabilized and maintained haul road located mainly on the east side of Elk Creek for most of the length of the reservoir pool. It would be located between 300 and 1,300 feet from Elk Creek except for 3 stream crossings.

2.2.2.11.5 Elk Creek Crossings

Three crossings of Elk Creek would be required along the construction haul road. The exact locations have not been defined and would depend on the configuration of the contractors work area. They would be constructed by placing a rock fill across the creek. Temporary culverts would be placed to allow passage of summer flows. The culverts would be removed before high flow winter months.

2.2.2.11.6 Recreation Areas

The construction of the dam would require removal of approximately 100,000 yards of overburden materials, consisting mainly of soils from the dam abutments. These soils would be hauled via the construction haul road to the south end of the reservoir where they would be used to form and contour the primary recreation area (Figure 2-4). Overburden materials from the Otten Quarry, about 50,000 cubic yards, would be used at the recreation site and to level the contractor's work area.

2.2.2.11.7 Causeways for County Road #8

The main causeway for County Road #8 would be about 1,300 feet long (Figure 2-2). It would require about 150,000 cubic yards of material composed of earth and rock fill. The material would come from the excess rock and earth extracted for the road excavation for re-alignment of County Road #7. Two culverts, each 8 feet in diameter, would be installed.

The causeway across Lane Creek on the southeast side of the reservoir would be about 300 feet long. It would require about

25,000 cubic yards of material composed of earth and rock fill from the excess available from the County Road. A 7-foot diameter culvert would be installed.

2.2.2.11.8 Transmission Line Island

The island and its access road would be constructed from excess material from the road as described above (Figure 2-2). About 20,000 cubic yards of material would be required for the access road and 55,000 cubic yards would be required for the island. The island would occupy 3 acres at the base. It would have side slopes of 4 to 1 and extend from elevation 760 msl to elevation 781 msl. The top of the island would be flat to provide the base for the transmission towers. The top would be about 0.75 acres (100 X 325 feet).

2.2.2.12 Land Acquisition

The maximum surface area of the reservoir would be 681 acres, however the project would require 1,192 acres within the project take-line (Figure 2-2) as follows:

<u>Land Use</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Flood easement	221
Wildlife mitigation	235
Roads	6
Wetlands	23
Recreation	27
Reservoir	681
TOTAL	<u>1,192</u>

Approximately 90 acres of public land and 1,102 acres of private land are needed. The project area would affect a total of 31 properties of which the Bureau of Land Management controls 3 and Douglas County owns 5. Douglas County would acquire all or part of the remaining 23 parcels except where management covenants may suffice. Acquiring the properties would involve 8 to 10 dwellings which would be handled in accordance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 and amendments. Property required for the take-line is greater than that which would be inundated for the following reasons:

- Additional area at 780 feet msl is required to handle flood events that could inundate lands above the spillway crest elevation of 775 feet msl.

- Federal policy requires that sufficient land above the high water line be taken for operation and maintenance of the project.
- County policy requires a public land buffer around a government owned facility to control access.
- Some blocks of land bordering the reservoir would be acquired for recreation purposes and for wildlife mitigation.
- Relocation of Elkhead Road (County road #7) and Scotts Valley Road (County road #8).
- Construction of the Dark Canyon Service Road to the damsite.
- Construction and operation of a microwave facility.

2.2.2.13 Mitigation of Impacts to Biological and Cultural Resources

"Mitigation" refers to those efforts taken to lessen the adverse impacts caused by construction and/or operation of the project.

2.2.2.13.1 Reservoir Area Wildlife Habitat

The project would include several actions taken in the reservoir area to mitigate wildlife losses (Figure 2-5). These actions would include measures for both terrestrial and aquatic wildlife.

The project would include acquisition and management of approximately 235 acres of land adjacent to the southern end of the reservoir area for terrestrial wildlife mitigation. These lands would be protected and managed to increase wildlife habitat, but would not involve measures which would require intensive operation and maintenance. Improvements would include the cessation of livestock grazing to allow recovery of native plants. The area is currently fenced. Vegetative plantings of mast producing plants would be made along field edges and fence rows to form a buffer, provide cover, and produce food. Snags would be developed in coniferous stands, and nest boxes and platforms would be provided to improve nesting habitat for several bird species.

An additional 50 acres of snags and nest box development would occur on lands in the takeline area. This would include wood duck boxes on the Walker Creek arm of the reservoir. Goose nests and

TOWNSHIP 23 SOUTH, RANGE 4 WEST

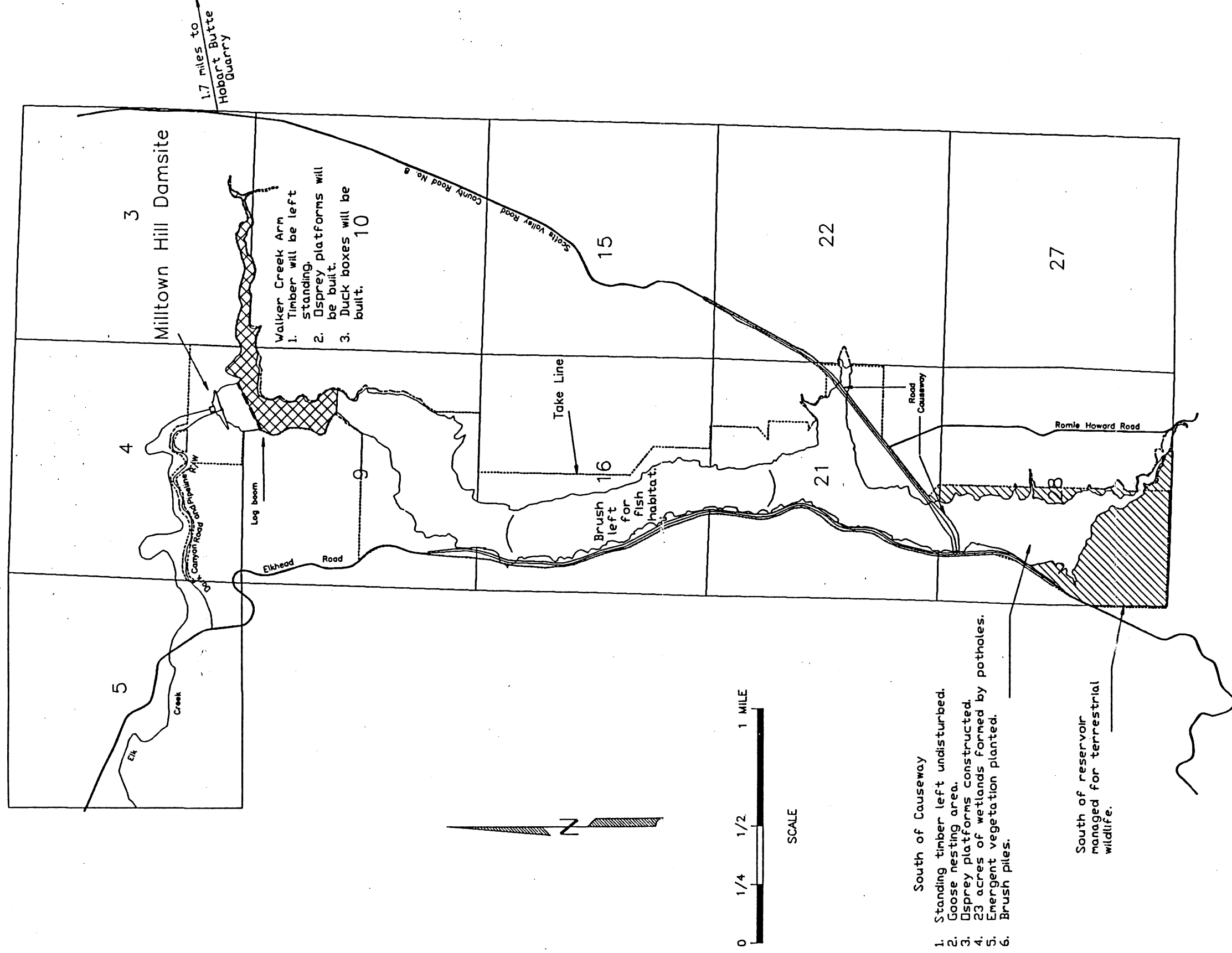


FIGURE 2-5
MILLTOWN HILL PROJECT
WILDLIFE AND FISHERIES MITIGATION

osprey platforms would be constructed in several areas.

2.2.2.13.2 Wetlands

The plan proposes the development of about 23 acres of permanent, shallow-water wetlands at the upstream end of the reservoir south of the County Road 8 causeway (Figure 2-6). These wetlands would be formed by scooping out shallow depressions in flat areas that would normally be dewatered during summer drawdown. The excavated material would be used to create low berms adjacent to the shallows. The berms would be treated to protect them from erosion and would be planted with herbaceous and woody vegetation tolerant to inundation.

The purchase of a 3-acre log pond that was discussed in the DEIS for the project will not be part of the project as planned. A decision to remove the log pond from the project was made after further investigation by Douglas County determined that water quality in the log pond was not as anticipated based on prior conversations, and that a considerable clean-up liability may be incurred if the pond was part of the project. This decision to remove the log pond from the project does not deter Douglas County's desire to use the log pond for development of a recreational and wildlife facility, but it is in Douglas County's best interest to pursue it separately from the Milltown Hill Project. Also, there may be additional funding sources available (for clean-up) if the log pond is not part of the project.

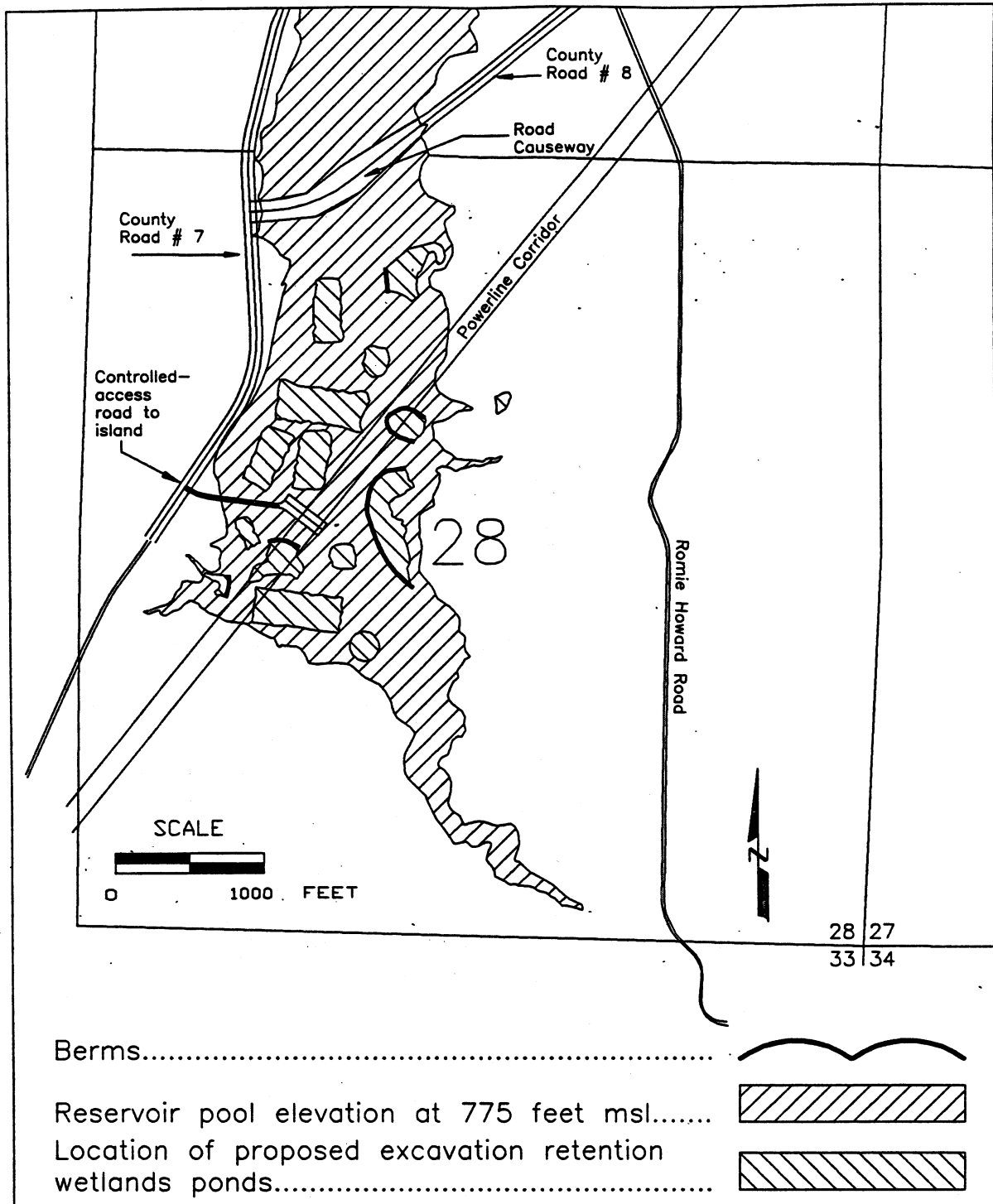
2.2.2.13.3 Habitat for Black-tailed Deer and Turkey

The County would secure 767 acres of habitat for the Federal endangered Columbian white-tailed deer. Habitat would be secured off-site to mitigate for loss of 681 acres of black-tailed deer and turkey habitat. The 767 acres would be a portion of the 5,500 acres of Columbian white-tailed deer habitat required by the recovery plan for delisting. This off-site mitigation measure for lost game species values was developed by biologists representing the Fish and Wildlife Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Douglas County, and Bureau of Reclamation. About 2,000 acres of secured habitat exists on Federal, County and State lands.

2.2.2.13.4 Cultural Resources

Historic structures evaluation and test excavations for historic and prehistoric sites would be completed prior to project construction to determine if they are eligible for listing to the Natural Register. Means to avoid or reduce the adverse project effect would be investigated. Adverse effects would be mitigated

TOWNSHIP 23 SOUTH, RANGE 4 WEST



MILLTOWN HILL PROJECT
 PROPOSED WETLANDS AREA, SOUTH
 OF ROAD CAUSEWAY
 FIGURE 2-6

through data recovery. SHPO and the Advisory council on Historic Preservation would be consulted for review and approval. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for impact mitigation actions would be signed by Reclamation, Douglas County, the SHPO, and the Council.

2.2.2.14 Enhancements to Biological Resources

"Enhancement" refers to those efforts taken for long-term improvement of existing biological conditions during construction and operation of the project.

2.2.2.14.1 Stream Flow Improvements for Fisheries Resources

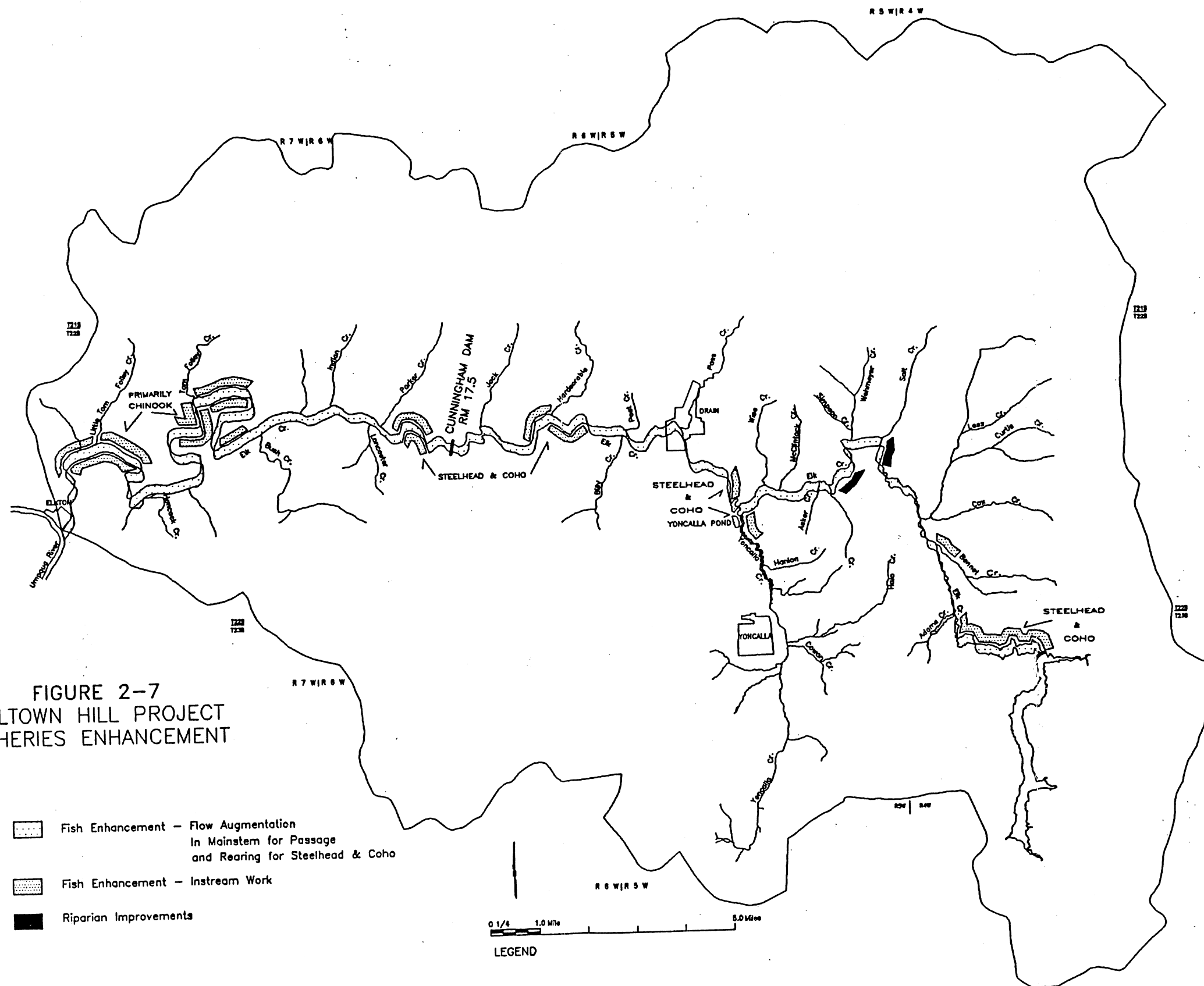
The project would store water during high flow periods in late fall, winter, and early spring to meet downstream needs during the irrigation season (April 1- October 30) and for anadromous fish enhancement. Releases would be made for the purposes of municipal and industrial water supply and fish enhancement throughout the year. Irrigation releases would be made during the irrigation season only.

Storage of up to 7,737 acre-feet of water would be reserved each year for fisheries resources. This water would be used to augment instream flows and provide cooling water to maintain water temperatures within an acceptable range for fisheries resources during summer and fall months. During these months, water temperatures are normally above 65-75 degrees (F) in most portions of Elk Creek. Releases of water at the dam would increase flows in the mainstem during the naturally low flow period of summer and early fall. With control over the temperature of the released water, the cooler water and increased flows would substantially improve rearing habitat for anadromous fish in the mainstem of Elk Creek below the dam. In addition, the Yoncalla Valley pipeline would be used to deliver water to the lower 2.5 miles of Yoncalla Creek for stream flow enhancement during the same low flow period.

2.2.2.14.2 Instream Fish Habitat Improvements

Log or gabion structures would be placed across Elk Creek in certain areas to trap gravels for spawning purposes. Due to the lack of natural gravel recruitment, some gravel may need to be placed along with the gravel holding structures. Approximately 8,000 square feet of gravel would be placed between river miles 39.4 and 34.4, 33,000 square feet of gravel between river miles 34.4 and the mouth, and 4,000 square feet of gravel in the lowest reaches of Adams and Yoncalla Creeks (Figure 2-7). Gravel deposits would be one foot in depth.

FIGURE 2-7
MILLTOWN HILL PROJECT
FISHERIES ENHANCEMENT



2.2.2.14.3 Reservoir Fish Habitat Improvements

Several actions would be taken to ensure good habitat for reservoir fish (Figure 2-5). These actions include leaving timber standing on about 90 acres on the Walker Creek arm of the reservoir and in the northern portion of the reservoir. Timber would also be left standing south of the County Road #8 causeway. Brush piles would be left in the central pool area. In addition, brush piles, tree stumps, and other woody debris would be placed in the main pool area and south of the County Road #8 causeway. Emergent vegetation would be planted in the southern end of the reservoir for habitat enhancement.

2.2.2.14.4 Riparian Habitat

The project would include measures to evaluate improvement to about 1.5 miles of riparian habitat along Elk Creek below the dam to mitigate for losses upstream of the dam due to inundation. Areas in need of habitat improvement are located between Scotts Valley and Boswell Springs and in the Putnam Valley area. Improvements would include vegetative plantings and fencing to protect the existing or improved riparian areas from livestock grazing (Figure 2-7).

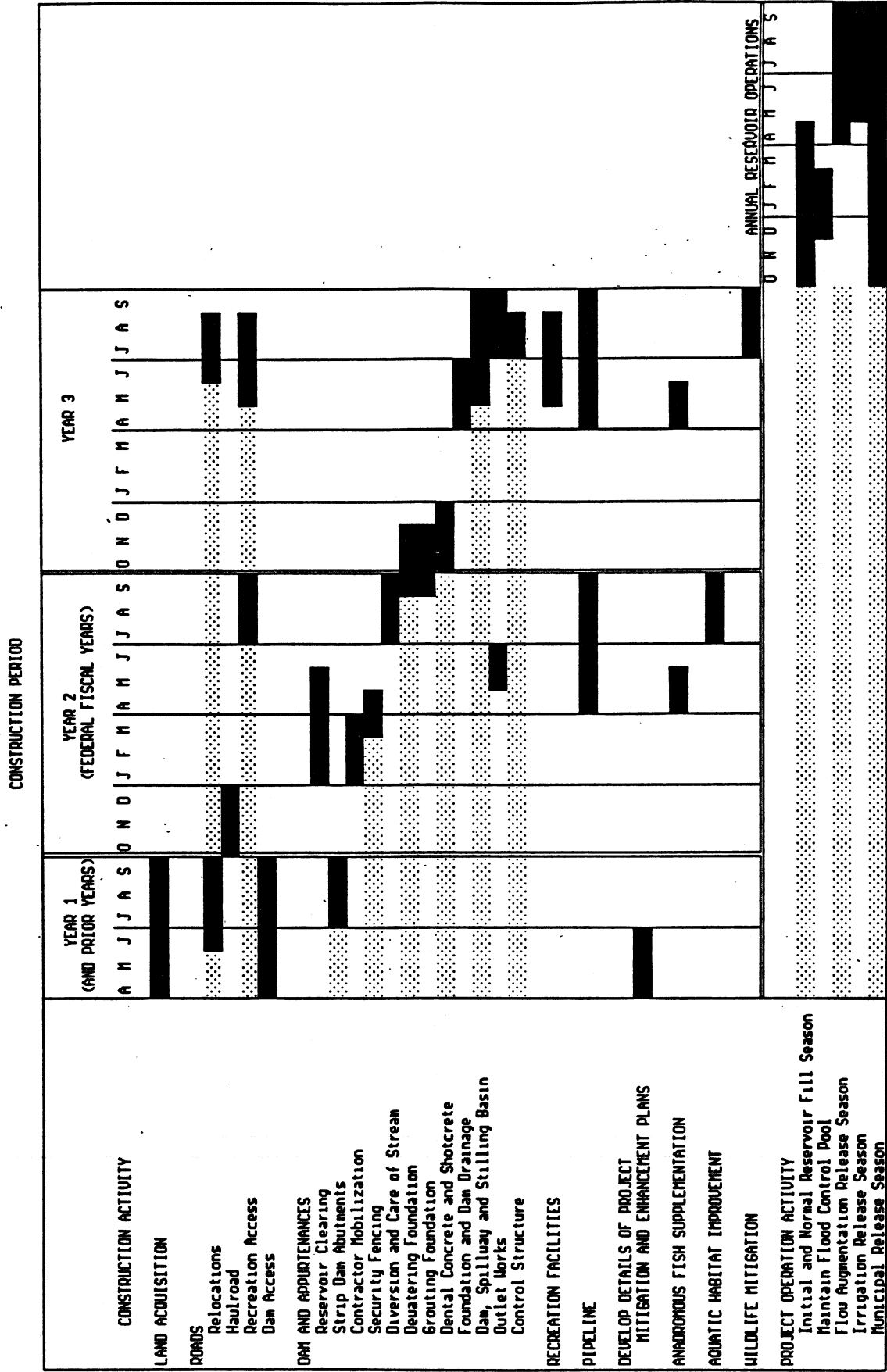
2.2.2.15 Construction Schedule and Work Sequence

Douglas County would complete construction of the Milltown Hill Project in three years (Figure 2-8). Operation would begin in year four.

During 1991, some work was completed on the relocation of portions of County Road #7 (Elkhead Road) and County Road #8 (Scotts Valley Road) near the southern end of the proposed reservoir area. The work was undertaken by Douglas County to accommodate construction of a new Pacific Power & Light 500 kV power transmission line through the area and to provide access to a new homesite for a family that would eventually be displaced by construction of the dam and reservoir. Powerline construction is scheduled to begin during the fall of 1991. Much of the material excavated from the new road realignment cuts was placed for the power transmission tower island located in the upper reservoir area. This work represents some of the road relocation scheduled for year 1 construction in Figure 2-8.

Figure 2-8 does not reflect about a year's worth of lag time between construction year 1 and 2 which will be needed for processing of the Small Reclamation Projects Act loan application plus final approval of Federal funding.

Figure 2-8. Construction and Operations Schedule for Milltown Hill Project.



During year 1 and prior years the following activities have been and would be done:

- Acquisition of rights of way and properties
- Removal of acquired buildings
- Strip dam abutments
- Relocation of County Roads #7 and #8
- Construction of the access road to the downstream side of the dam
- Development of mitigation and monitoring plans

During year 2 the following construction activities would occur:

- Complete aquatic habitat improvement
- Begin anadromous fish supplementation
- Clearance of reservoir to 780 feet msl
- Development of mobilization and construction program
- Construction of the haul road in the reservoir area
- Construction of access road to recreation sites
- Construction of diversion works
- Dewater foundation
- Construction of security fence
- Begin grout foundation
- Complete dental concrete and shotcrete
- Begin dam, stilling basin and outlet works
- Implement monitoring plans
- Begin pipeline network

During year 3 the following actions would be taken:

- Complete construction of access road to recreation areas.
- Complete foundation and dam drainage
- Complete dam, spillway and stilling basin
- Complete outlet works
- Complete pipeline network
- Complete anadromous fish supplementation
- Continue implementation of monitoring plans
- Complete road relocations
- Complete dewatering of foundation
- Complete grouting foundation
- Complete recreation facilities
- Complete wildlife mitigation

During operation of the project, mitigation monitoring efforts would continue as required and committed to in the FEIS (See: Appendix B).

2.2.2.16 Project Costs

The total estimated capital cost of the Milltown Hill Project, based on January, 1990 cost levels plus an allowance for projected price increases would be \$41,748,600 (Table 2-2). This total includes, in addition to direct construction costs, reasonable allowances for contingencies, investigations, engineering, acquisition of lands, County overhead and legal fees, reimbursable interest during construction and Bureau of Reclamation participation.

Table 2-2. Summary of Estimated Project Costs.

Total Direct Cost		\$28,500,100
Contingencies @ 10.00%		1,425,000
Subtotal		29,925,100
Projected cost increase		712,000
Subtotal		30,637,100
Engineering and Administration		5,740,600
BASE CONSTRUCTION COST		36,377,800
RIDC		697,900
Rights of Way		2,727,500
Bureau Participation		310,000
Application Processing	65,000	
Loan Administration	245,000	
TOTAL CONSTRUCTION COST		40,113,200
Deferred Drainage		425,400
Loan Application Reports		804,000
TOTAL PROJECT COST		41,748,600
Less COUNTY CONTRIBUTION		10,700,000
Rights of Way	2,168,000	
Loan Application Reports	424,200	
Filing Fee	5,000	
Deferred Drainage	425,400	
Other (Cash & Services)	7,677,400	
TOTAL FEDERAL SHARE		31,048,600
Loan Grant		24,532,8000
		5,817,900
Rights of Way	559,500	
Construction	4,472,700	
Loan Applic & Spec Studies	785,000	
RIDC		
Less RIDC		(697,900)
TOTAL LOAN OBLIGATION AND GRANTS		30,350,700
Less USBR Prior to Loan		(60,000)
FEDERAL APPROPRIATION REQUIREMENT		30,290,700
Less USBR Loan Administration		(245,000)
TOTAL FUNDS TO BE ADVANCED BY U.S.		30,045,700

Source: Myers, 1992.

2.2.2.16.1 Projected Future Costs

On the basis of recent trends, the cost of construction can be expected to rise above current levels. Allowances of 2 percent per year have been included to accommodate escalation expected to occur between the time of the estimates and start of construction.

2.2.2.16.2 Land Acquisition and Rights of Way

A total area of 1,192 acres would be acquired by Douglas County for Milltown Hill Reservoir and road relocations. Pipeline routing would be located within rights of way for either State or County road rights of way, consequently, no rights of way costs are included for the pipeline. A right-of-way permit will be required for BLM public domain and revested Oregon and California Railroad Grant Lands (O&C lands).

The cost of acquisition of all properties and rights of way for the project is estimated to total \$2,727,500, including contingencies and price increases.

2.2.2.16.3 Engineering and Administration

Douglas County has entered into a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Bureau of Reclamation to provide design service. An additional MOU describing construction inspection and administration services, is being negotiated. These costs, exclusive of SRPA program costs, are estimated to be:

MOU costs for preparation of dam designs and specifications	\$2,283,000
MOU costs for construction administration	2,000,000

Douglas County has retained J.M. Montgomery Consulting Engineers, Incorporated for preliminary and final design, and specification preparation. For the dam and control structure at the base of the dam, an amount of \$4,283,400 has been included for these services. The county also would retain a consultant for design and construction administration for the recreation facilities. Road design and construction inspection is to be accomplished by engineers of the County's Public Works Department. Project engineering and administration costs are shown below:

<u>FEATURE</u>	<u>AMOUNT</u>
Road Relocation	\$373,200
Dam and Control Structure	4,283,400
Pipeline	1,000,000
Recreation	84,050
Total	\$5,740,650

Total engineering and administration costs are about 11.8% of total project costs exclusive of Reimbursable Interest during construction.

2.2.2.16.4 Estimated Direct Cost of Project Facilities

A summary of the estimated direct cost of project facilities are shown below:

<u>FACILITY</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>
Road & Utility Relocation	\$3,110,000	County
Dam & Appurtenances	20,898,340	USBR/JMM
Distribution System	5,400,970	JMM
Recreation Facilities	840,490	County
Wildlife Mitigation	358,840	County
Aquatic Habitat Improve.	28,510	County
Project Total	\$30,637,150	

2.2.2.16.5 Loan Application Reports and Special Studies

During the course of formulation of the Milltown Hill Project, Douglas County spent \$399,000 for general project planning. The county accomplished investigations and studies to further define the potential specifically for anadromous fish enhancement in the amount of \$142,200 and \$4,500 for recreation facility concepts. Costs for preparation of the Loan Application and Environmental Reports are estimated to total \$258,300. These total \$804,000.

2.2.2.16.6 Bureau of Reclamation Costs

During design and construction of the project, the Bureau of Reclamation would incur costs from activities pertinent to the administration of the Small Reclamations Project Act program, such as loan application review and processing, repayment contract preparation, design review and construction oversight. The overall costs have been estimated to be \$305,000, of which \$60,000 is for application processing and \$245,000 for loan administration.

2.2.2.16.7 Reimbursable Interest During Construction (IDC)

During the construction period interest charges (IDC) would accumulate on costs incurred and/or funds advanced by Bureau of Reclamation. The accumulated total is included in the repayment schedule calculations. The portion of IDC related to water use for purposes other than commercial irrigation is considered reimbursable, and over the repayment period is expected to total \$697,900 (Myers, 1992).

2.2.2.16.8 Operation, Maintenance and Replacement Costs

The Milltown Hill Project would be operated by the Douglas County Water Resources Survey as part of the continuing Douglas County Water Resources Program. Major elements of the program include:

- Cooperative stream gaging with the U.S. Geological Survey and the State of Oregon.
- Cooperative Snow Surveys with the U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- County stream gaging program.
- County/National Weather Service Rain Gage Network.
- Dam safety inspections, including use of county-owned equipment for monitoring inclinometers.
- Planning activities for selection and implementation of additional projects.
- Assistance to local entities in solution of water resource problems.
- Cooperation with the state of Oregon District 15 Watermaster's Office.
- Reservoir operation and maintenance of Galesville and Berry Creek projects.
- Cooperation with the Corps of Engineers for flood control of reservoir releases.

Funds for all the activities of the Water Resources Survey are provided through the Public Works budget and only those costs deemed to be directly attributable to Milltown Hill are expected to be borne by water users (Myers, 1992).

The project would be operated from the operations center in the County Courthouse in Roseburg. Other county projects, such as Galesville, are operated through the Water Resources Survey/Watermaster's Office. Diversions would be administered by the District 15 Watermaster and staff. Customer billing, project accounting, and fiscal services would be accomplished by the administrative staff, coordinated by the Deputy Director. The above activities would be incorporated into the work loads of existing staff. Costs would not accrue to project water users for these functions.

Inasmuch as dam safety is an ongoing program, costs for this activity for the Milltown Hill Project would not be broken out or allocated to the project, but would continue to be included in the overall Water Resources budget. Communication costs between Milltown Hill and the control center would not be charged to water users (Myers, 1992).

Routine minor maintenance and incidental operation duties at Milltown Hill Reservoir would be accomplished by the staff of Douglas County's Water Resources Survey, and by a full-time attendant. The cost of the full-time attendant would be shared between the project and the Douglas County Parks Department. The project would then be responsible for one half the employee cost, at an estimated annual amount of \$12,000. The attendant would perform minor maintenance duties at the dam, estimated to require about one-half the employee cost to the project. Maintenance needs at the dam of a more serious nature would be met on a scheduled basis, or as-needed, utilizing men and equipment from the County Road and/or County Park Department crews.

The resident attendant also would perform periodic operation and maintenance inspections of the pipeline. This is estimated to require the one-half of the attendant's time. The county plans to retain a contractor, equipped to perform maintenance on the pipeline, on an on-call basis. The estimated cost for pipeline maintenance is estimated at an annual workload of 100 hours at a cost of \$75 per hour, totaling \$7,500 annually. Maintenance costs are estimated to total \$19,500 payable by the project. Of this total, the pipeline functions would be responsible for an estimated total of \$13,500 and the dam and reservoir share would amount to \$6,000.

<u>Item</u>	<u>Dam</u>	<u>Pipeline</u>	<u>Total</u>
Operation	\$ See Text		----
Maintenance	\$ 6,000	\$ 13,500	\$ 19,500
Replacement	\$ 5,070	0	\$ 5,070
Total O+M+R	\$ 11,070	\$ 13,500	\$ 24,570

Source: Myers, 1992

A sinking fund amount is estimated for one item, the Systems Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) equipment, to be installed in the Control Structure at the base of the dam. The total capital cost of the equipment is estimated to be \$70,000, according to JM Montgomery estimates of "probable bid price". A life of ten years has been assumed for the equipment, with complete replacement at the end of that time. It is assumed that Douglas County would be able to manage sinking fund amounts to receive an interest income amounting to 7% over this period. The annual sinking fund deposit

required to completely replace the SCADA gear at the end of ten years is \$5,066 (Myers, 1992).

Douglas County would establish, prior to the beginning of project operation, an emergency reserve in the amount of \$40,000.

2.3 Compliance with Applicable Laws, Regulations, and Executive Orders

2.3.1 Reviews, Permits, and Licenses

Reviews, permits, licenses, and other regulatory compliance presented in Table 2-3 would be required by Federal, State, and local agencies for the construction and operation of the proposed project. Douglas County would apply directly to all agencies that require permits and licenses.

2.3.2 Compliance with Executive Orders for Flood Plain Management #11988 and Protection of Wetlands #11990

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement of the proposed project was used to elicit public review and comment as required by Executive Orders 11988 and 11990 and Reclamation's implementation procedures.

In response to Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, Bureau of Reclamation has addressed the following specific issues in the Draft and in the Final Environmental Impact Statement.

1. Reason why the proposed action must be located in the flood plain or wetlands.

Dams and reservoirs, by their very nature, must be located in flood plains to impound surface water. Associated structures that might be damaged by flooding, such as the relocated road, would be located outside the flood plain. Other facilities would be designed to withstand flooding.

Scattered, small patches of seasonal wetlands, having emergent vegetation, occur in the irrigation areas (approximately 28 acres). Douglas County would notify landowners of the locations of these wetlands. No project drainage or change in agricultural practices will occur to negatively affect jurisdictional wetlands at the time the water service contract is negotiated. This will be enforced by County with a wetland protective clause in the water service contract between the County and individual water user.

Table 2-3. Reviews, Permits and Licenses Required by Federal, State and Local Agencies.

Agency	Act or Regulation	Requirement	Procedure for Compliance
Environmental Protection Agency	National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)	Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS)	Submit USBR's EIS to EPA. -Prepare FEIS, submit to EPA -Issue decision notice
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation	National Historic Preservation Act, Sec. 106 Executive Order 11593, Sec. 2 (b) (36 CFR 800)	Compliance with provisions of the Act and Executive Order	Preliminary consultation with State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). SHPO reviews EIS through A-95 Clearinghouse procedure.
National Park Service	National Historic Preservation Act, Sec. 106 Executive Order 11593, Sec. 2 (b) (36 CFR 800)	Compliance with provisions of the Act and Executive Order.	Agency reviews EIS
National Marine Fisheries Service	NEPA, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act	Compliance with provisions of the Acts	NMFS cooperates with USBR in preparation of anadromous fisheries components of EIS. Review DEIS for adequacy

Table 2-3. (Continued)

Agency	Act or Regulation	Requirement	Procedure for Compliance
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service	Endangered Species Act, Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, Fish and Wildlife Improvement Act, Migratory Bird Conservation Act, Bald Eagle Protection Act, NEPA	Compliance with provisions of the Acts	Request listing of endangered and threatened species; consultation. USFWS cooperates with USBR in preparation of EIS. Review DEIS for adequacy Completion of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report (August, 1990).
Bureau of Land Management	Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA)	Compliance with Provisions of the Act	BLM is a cooperating agency.
	FLPMA and 43 CFR 2800	Easement or permit for use of BLM public domain land	Submit application.
	Revested Oregon & California Railroad and Reconveyed Coos Bay Wagon Road Grant Lands Act of 1937	Easement or permit for use of O & C lands	Submit application. Review DEIS for adequacy
Corps of Engineers/Oregon Division of State Lands	Section 404 (Joint permit with Oregon Division of State Lands)	Dredge and Fill Permit for dam, reservoir, and fish enhancement work	Submit application to Corps and DSL. Review DEIS for adequacy. The Corps is a cooperating agency.

Table 2-3. (Continued)

Agency	Act or Regulation	Requirement	Procedure for Compliance
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality	Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments of 1972, Sec. 401	Water Quality Certificate	Submit application to DSL and Corps of Engineers. Review DEIS through A-95 clearinghouse procedure.
Oregon Division of State Lands	Removal/Fill Permit (Joint Permit with Corps)	Dredge and Fill Permit for dam, reservoir, and fish enhancement work	Submit application to DSL and Corps of Engineers
Oregon Department of Forestry	ORS 527.611 or 527.730	Forest Practices Act	Apply for permit to operate machinery on forest land. Meet or exceed standards to protect water quality. Review DEIS through A-95 clearinghouse procedure
Oregon Department of Water Resources	ORS 537	Water rights for storage use of stored water and for construction purposes.	Submit application. Public hearing and Water Policy Review DEIS through A-95 clearinghouse procedure
	ORS 540.350 to 540.390	Dam safety review and inspection	Submit plans and specifications.

Table 2-3 (Continued)

Agency	Act or Regulation	Requirement	Procedure for Compliance
Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development	ORS 197	Review of County land use actions for compliance with statewide goals.	Review initiated by appeal to Land Use Board of Appeals. Document Findings of Fact.
Douglas County	Comprehensive Plan and Zoning	Plan and Zone Amendment	Submit application. Planning Commission hearing. Board of Commissioners action to approve plan amendment.
	Development ordinance	Building Permit	Submit application.

2. Facts considered in making the determination to locate in the flood plain or wetlands.

The benefits of supplying M&I and irrigation water as well as flood control benefits and instream flows would outweigh the harm to natural and beneficial values of flood plains.

There are ample opportunities to replace lost values to wetlands by developing wetlands in the upper part of the reservoir.

3. Statement on whether the proposed action conforms to applicable state or local flood plain or wetland protection standards.

The proposed project should conform to state and local standards for protection of public facilities within the 100-year flood plain. It would comply with the Statewide Planning Goals and Guidelines, as excepted, including Goal 5 (wetlands) and Goal 7 (flood plains).

4. Statement on whether the action affects the natural and beneficial value of the flood plain and wetlands.

Dam construction and operation would have both positive and negative effects. However, the positive effects would outweigh the negative effects. Operation for flood control would help prevent losses of public and private lands historically subject to flood damage. It would also narrow the downstream 100-year flood plain, making some lands more suitable for human use and habitation.

A consequence of flood control, however, is long-term elimination of the seasonal flooding that deposits nutrients, organics, and sediments that temporarily accelerate, until it reaches a new equilibrium, due to lowered deposition of sediments trapped by the dam.

Wetlands would not be converted to agricultural lands when additional irrigation water becomes available. Wetland loss in the area of reservoir inundation would be mitigated.

5. Steps taken to design or modify the proposed action to minimize harm to or within the flood plain or wetlands.

The design would take into consideration the need to protect the dam from the probable maximum flood, as well as to protect downstream properties.

6. Restoration of flood plain and wetland values, if applicable to the proposed action.

Flood plain values would be at least partially offset by the enhancement of riparian areas downstream of the dam. Wetlands lost in the inundation area of the reservoir would be offset by the creation of wetlands in the upper end of the reservoir.

2.4 Other Alternatives Considered but Excluded from Detailed Study

2.4.1 Structural Alternatives Investigated

The following storage sites were explored (Clair Hill and Associates, 1968, 1969, 1971; International Engineering, 1978 and 1980), including the preferred alternative, on tributaries to Elk Creek and Elk Creek mainstem (Figure 2-9). A summary of findings for each alternative is listed in Table 2-4.

2.4.1.1 Tributaries to Elk Creek

Billy Creek. This site, also called Skull Mountain site, is located on Billy Creek, approximately 1/2 mile south of its junction with Bear Creek (Section 24, T. 22S., R. 6 W.). This site has an 80,000 acre-foot capacity. However, precipitation records indicate the drainage area yield would not exceed 28,000 acre-feet. The Scotts Valley and Yoncalla Valley service areas would not be served, due to high pumping costs. Therefore, the site was dropped from further investigation. The city of Drain subsequently developed a 290-acre-foot reservoir on Bear Creek, a tributary of Billy Creek.

Adams Creek. This site is located on Adams Creek, approximately 1/2 mile from its confluence with Elk Creek (Section 6, T.23S., R 4W.). Preliminary geological investigations indicate this site may be structurally suitable for a dam which would store only 2,000 acre-feet although 1,500, 3,500 and 6,800 acre-feet sites were evaluated. This small watershed would not yield enough water for all the service areas and the costs per acre-feet were excessive, therefore the site was dropped from further investigation. At present, the city of Yoncalla has a permit for the diversion of 1.5 cfs of water from Adams Creek. This water is pumped to Wilson Creek, then piped 4 miles and stored in a 100 acre-foot reservoir near Yoncalla.

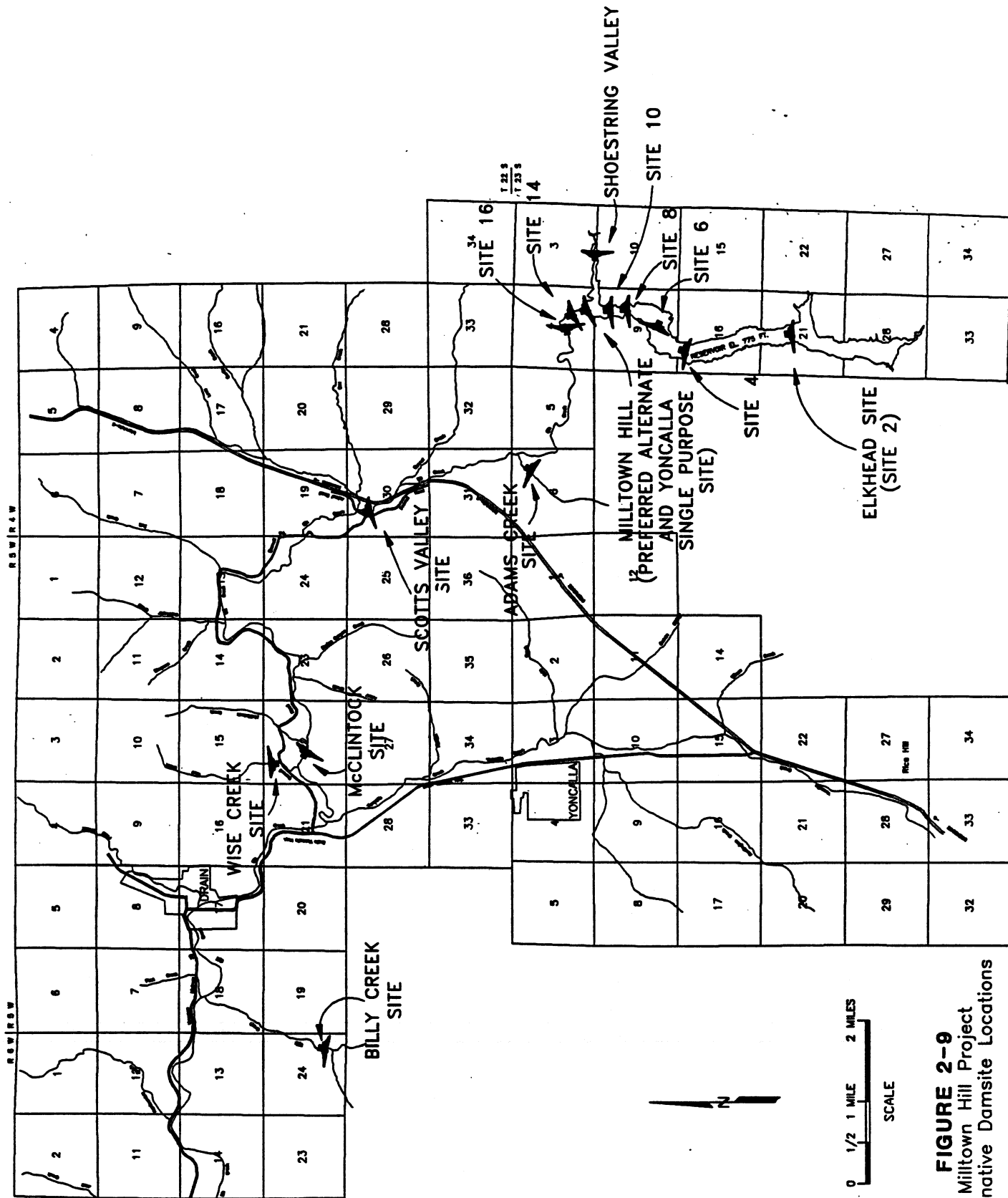


FIGURE 2-9
 Milltown Hill Project
 Alternative Dam Site Locations

Table 2-4. Structural and Non-structural Alternatives Investigated.

<u>ALTERNATIVES</u>	<u>FINDINGS</u>
1. <u>Structural</u>	
A. Sites Located on <u>Elk Creek Tributaries</u>	
Billy Creek	-Insufficient water yield -High costs of pumping water to service area in Scotts Valley and Yoncalla Valley.
Adams Creek	-Small yield -Geological conditions would provide for a reservoir of only 2,000 acre-feet; not adequate for service area needs.
Wise Creek	-Inadequate yield. -Slide potential on both abutments.
Shoestring Valley (Walker Creek)	-Yield of only 12,500 acre-feet. -Larger reservoir would be cost prohibitive.
B. Sites Located on <u>Elk Creek Mainstem</u>	
Drain (McClintock)	-Would inundate Scotts Valley service area. -Prohibitive costs of 1-5 relocation. -Loss of Scotts Valley service area. -High cost of pumping to service areas in Yoncalla Valley.
Scotts Valley (Elk Creek)	-Would inundate Scotts Valley service area. -Would inundate 1-5. -Loss of Scotts Valley service area. -High cost of pumping to Yoncalla Valley service area. -High cost of 1-5 relocation
Yoncalla Single Purpose	-Unacceptable to local Douglas County Water Resources Management Plan and the Oregon Water Resources Commission's Basin Program Statement. Would service Yoncalla Valley only.
Site 2	-Inadequate reservoir capacity.
Site 4	-Inadequate reservoir capacity.
Site 6	-Geologically inadequate.
Site 8	-Geologically inadequate.
Site 10	-Geologically inadequate.
Site 12 (Preferred Alternative)	-Meets all needs of service areas. Geologically acceptable
Site 14	-Geologically inadequate.
Site 16	-Geologically inadequate, working room for dam construction not adequate.
C. <u>Other Structural</u> <u>Interbasin Transfer</u>	
Ground Water Pumping	-Institutional constraints. -Inadequate water supply. -Inadequate water supply. -High pumping costs.
2. <u>Non-Structural</u>	
Purchase of irrigation	-Counter to diversification of water employment base. -Would apply to Drain only because Yoncalla would have no source.
Conservation	-Active Conservation programs are in effect.

Wise Creek. This site is located on Wise Creek, approximately 2 miles southeast of Drain (Section 22, T.22S.,R.5W.). The site was dropped from further investigation due to slide potential on both abutments and inadequate water yield.

Shoestring Valley. This site is located on Walker Creek approximately 1/2 mile from its confluence with Elk Creek. (Section 10, T.23S.,R.4W.). Initial investigations indicated the average yield for this reservoir would not exceed 30,000 acre-feet. More detailed studies showed that the storage capacity could be only 12,500 acre-feet. The physical formation of the area provides for only an 80-foot structure, capable of storing only 12,500 acre-feet. A larger structure would be cost prohibitive.

2.4.1.2 Elk Creek Mainstem

Drain. This site, also called the McClintock site, is located on Elk Creek, approximately 4 miles upstream of the town of Drain (Section 22, T.22S.,R.5W.). Potential storage capacity is 220,000 acre-feet, but the average yield would not exceed 115,000 acre-feet. A reservoir at this site would inundate the entire Scotts Valley service area and a 2-mile segment of Interstate 5. Relocation of approximately 4 miles of I-5 would be required. The costs of the relocation of I-5, and the cost of pumping water to the Yoncalla Valley service area, plus the loss of the Scotts Valley service area, indicated the site did not warrant further investigation.

Scotts Valley. This site, also called the Elk Creek site, is located on Elk Creek, at river mile 33.5 (Section 30, T.22S.,R.5W.). Potential storage capacity is 100,000 acre-feet, with an annual yield of 75,000 acre-feet. This site would inundate Interstate 5, but not to the extent the Drain site would. It would also inundate most of the Scotts Valley service area. Cost of highway relocation, pumping cost to the Yoncalla Valley service area, and loss of Scotts Valley service area, plus the possibility of leaks in both abutments indicated the site should not be further investigated.

Yoncalla Single Purpose. This alternative is located in Section 4, T.23S.,R.4W at the same site as the preferred alternative. It differs from the preferred alternative in that it would provide only 5,350 acre-feet solely for municipal and industrial use in the Yoncalla - Rice Hill area. This alternative was dropped from further study after local interests determined it

unacceptable, since it addressed only a portion of their needs.

Elk Creek Dam Axis Alternatives. A reconnaissance investigation identified 8 potential dam sites in the upper reaches of Elk Creek. Three sites were in Section 4. They were site 12 (Milltown Hill), site 14, and site 16. Three sites were in Section 9. They were site 6, site 8 and site 10. One site was in Section 11 (Elkhead site, site 2). One site was in Section 16, T.23S., R.4W. (site 4). Area capacity curves were developed for 5 of these sites. Estimates were made of volumes of materials required for a typical dam, using a normal water surface elevation of 800 feet msl for each of the five sites. Two sites failed to meet the criteria. Three sites, including the preferred alternative site were further inspected for geological foundation conditions. The Milltown Hill alternative had the most favorable material for structural adequacy for dam foundation, permeability, and related problems concerning spillway and outlet construction, and availability of materials for embankment (Table 2-3).

Reclamation and County decided to limit future studies to the preferred alternative. All structural alternatives which involved a reservoir capacity less than desired were considered not acceptable, and they were dropped from further investigation, since they would not provide enough water to meet County goals and the needs of the subbasin.

2.4.2 Other Structural Alternatives

Two additional alternatives were investigated. An investigation revealed that ground water supplies are inadequate for the future needs of the service areas (USGS, 1977), and pumping costs would be prohibitive. An interbasin diversion of water was also considered. This alternative would involve the transfer of water from the Coast Fork Willamette River, near London, to the Elk Creek drainage. Investigations indicated the supply of water is inadequate and the cost of either a tunnel or a pumping facility as well as a diversion structure would be prohibitive.

2.4.3 Non-Structural Alternatives

Non-structural alternatives considered were water conservation and retirement of irrigation land. The purchase of irrigation water would be counter to the effort the county is making toward providing greater opportunities to diversify its employment base. The cities of Drain and Yoncalla are unique for their size. They have implemented conservation measures such as metered water

supplies and both cities maintain active conservation programs. Further conservation measures would not appreciably increase available water supplies and would still be unresponsive to the long-term goals of the county, the cities, and the farming communities of Elk Creek subbasin.

2.5 Comparison of Environmental Impacts of Alternatives

The preferred alternative and the no-action alternative are compared in Table S-2 in the Summary section. A more in-depth analysis is presented in Section 3, Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences.

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

The National Environment Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) requires that an Environmental Impact Statement be written for a proposed federal project or a federally funded project which would affect the human environment. The Environmental Impact Statement is to be developed using the guidelines established by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ). Public scoping and agency consultation processes must adhere to CEQ's guidelines. For the proposed Milltown Hill Project, these processes have been on-going for over 3 decades. During these processes, especially during the past 3 years, potential problems have been identified which required the need for ancillary studies, to provide information for evaluation of impacts of project construction and operation. These studies were conducted and are reported in various Technical Appendices and special reports (See: Table 4-1 Section 4, Consultation and Coordination).

This EIS addresses each known environmental component which could be affected by the project. The existing conditions, impacts, and mitigative and enhancement measures for most components are addressed commensurate with the level of concern identified during the public scoping process, agency consultation process, and in subsequent studies. When additional concerns were identified during impact evaluation they were treated commensurate with the magnitude of impact expected. The main concerns of the agencies and the public were the adverse impacts of reservoir inundation and the favorable impacts of the predicted change of Elk Creek water regime on the existing biological environmental components.

Consequences of constructing and operating the proposed project will be quantified, whenever possible, in terms of incidence, intensity, magnitude and duration. Mitigation measures to offset adverse impacts will also be quantified in terms of effectiveness when possible. Enhancement measures will be addressed separately. Based on the level of impact expected on various environmental resources, environmental commitments are proposed to ameliorate or avoid impacts (Appendix B).

3.1 Preferred Alternative

This EIS addresses construction impacts and operation impacts separately, as appropriate. Construction activities would be localized and would occur primarily in and near the reservoir pool area during a 3-year period.

The relative proximity and timing of construction activities and the similarity of impacts expected allows an analysis of impacts by grouping all activities under "construction impacts" for each environmental component.

Construction activities in the reservoir area include:

- Constructing the service road (Dark Canyon Road) from County Road #7 to the base of the dam
- Constructing the haul road in the reservoir area
- Preparing the Otten Quarry for extraction of rock material
- Operating a rock crusher in the staging area and in the contractor work area for aggregate sizing
- Operating a batch plant for roller compacted concrete processing in the staging area
- Constructing and using 2 or 3 settling ponds (1/4 to 1 acre each) in the work area for cleaning fines from crushed aggregate
- Stockpiling and mixing aggregate in the contractor work area or in the staging area
- Constructing the dam and appurtenances
- Removing overburden from the dam abutments and hauling to the eastern recreation site
- Setting of 2 coffer dams and a diversion in Elk Creek at the damsite and across Elk Creek near Otten Quarry
- Clearing of timber in the main pool area
- Recontouring of the eastern recreation site
- Relocating portions of County Roads #7 and #8
- Constructing two causeways on County Road #8 across the reservoir
- Constructing the transmission tower island and excavating wetlands south of the causeway
- Placing the buried pipeline and electrical transmission line in the road right-of-way of Dark Canyon Road
- Constructing the recreational facilities
- Constructing the microwave tower and facilities

Construction activities are scheduled as shown in Figure 2-8.

Construction activities away from the pool area would involve the installation of an irrigation pipeline network in the service areas.

An Annual reservoir operation schedule is shown in Figure 2-8. Operation of the project would cause impacts in the reservoir pool area, but the majority of potential impacts during operation would occur in Elk Creek downstream of the dam. These impacts will be discussed under "operation impacts" for each environmental component.

3.1.1 Topography

3.1.1.1 Existing Topography

Elk Creek, in the northern portion of Douglas County, Oregon, is a subbasin of the Umpqua River Basin. Elk Creek flows from east to west, extends about 45 miles from its source in the foothills of the Cascade mountain range to its confluence with the Umpqua River near Elkton, and is about 290 square miles in area. Elevation ranges from 150 feet to 2600 feet. Topography is generally mountainous, with rounded slopes, incised by steep, narrow canyons. Topographic relief is more pronounced in the higher eastern part of the subbasin, which exhibits well dissected topography with narrow, steep-walked valleys in a deeply entrenched dendritic pattern. Topographic relief in the western portion of the subbasin is less pronounced.

The watershed for the reservoir heads at the Calapooya Divide about 7 to 8 miles upstream from the damsite (river mile 39.4) with the divide trending both east and south of the reservoir area. Water drains from Dickinson Mountain trending along the west side of the reservoir and from the east and north from the north trending ridge between Harness Mountain and Hobart Butte. Tributaries to Elk Creek above the dam are Shingle Mill, Walker and Lane Creeks. The total watershed of the dam is approximately 30.5 square miles, with elevations ranging from 600 feet at the damsite to approximately 2600 feet in the higher ridges along the southern subbasin boundary. The reservoir created by the Milltown Hill Dam would inundate 681 acres at normal full pool elevation of 775 feet.

3.1.1.2 Topography Impacts

3.1.1.2.1 Construction

The topography would be altered from a vegetated meandering broad valley by construction of the 186 foot-high dam, and a resulting 681-acre reservoir. Major topographic changes would

result from overburden removal for preparation of the dam and rock extraction from the Otten Quarry. Relatively minor changes in topography would result from relocated roads, causeways, recreation sites, and the transmission line island in the south end of the reservoir.

3.1.1.2.2 Operation

The operation of the reservoir would result in a change in topography, depending on season. During reservoir drawdown, the present vegetated area would be replaced by mud flats in the south end of the reservoir. This would occur during the irrigation season (April 1 to October 30). Reservoir level would decrease until winter rains begin to occur (approximately November). The reservoir would continue to fill until sometime in the spring, when the rainy season ends. The annual drawdown of the reservoir would, therefore indirectly affect the area's visual quality and recreational use (See: Sections 3.1.17.2 Recreation and 3.1.19.2 Visual Resources).

3.1.1.3 Mitigation of Topography Impacts

Topographic impacts cannot be fully mitigated. A stream valley setting would be exchanged for a reservoir setting. Cuts and fills required for road relocation would be minimized as possible during final design. The topographic impacts caused by the new roads would not be significantly different from present conditions. Cuts and fills on relocated and new roads would be sloped to prevent landslides and would be revegetated to decrease erosion. The recreation areas would be constructed to fit with present topographic features and landscaped with native plants. The island needed for powerline transmission towers would be contoured and landscaped to fit topographic features.

3.1.2 Geology and Seismicity

3.1.2.1 Existing Conditions

The oldest geologic formations in and surrounding the project area are of relatively recent origin, dating to the early Tertiary Period (70 million years before present), when the Cascadian mountain-making epoch began (Table 3-2-1). Rocks in the project area are mostly Tertiary volcanics and sediments. The oldest rocks are of the Umpqua formation, up to 12,000 feet thick, formed in the early Eocene epoch.

Table 3-2-1. Geologic Time Chart to 70 Million Years Before Present.

ERA	PERIODS	EPOCHS	ROCK FORMATIONS
Cenozoic	Quaternary	Holocene (Recent)	Alluviums and Landslide Debris
		Pleistocene (Glacial)	Unconsolidated Alluvium Landslide Debris
	Tertiary	Pliocene (Modern Plants and Animals Developed)	
		Miocene (Development of Large Mountain Ranges)	
		Oligocene (Development of higher mammals)	Fisher (Pyroclastics, Volcanics) Spencer (Sandstones, Siltstones)
		Eocene (Mammals Became Dominant Animals)	Tyee (Sandstones, Siltstones) Umpqua (Volcanics)
		Paleocene	

The Tyee Formation, of the middle Eocene epoch, overlies the Umpqua formation in sandstone and siltstone beds up to 30 feet thick. Later, in the late Eocene epoch, to the middle Oligocene epoch, the Spencer formation, comprised mostly of sandstone and siltstone, overlaid the Tyee formation.

Above the Spencer formation is the Fisher formation, up to 5,000 feet thick, consisting of pyroclastic and volcanic rocks, which formed the western Cascade Range, during the middle Oligocene epoch. The above formations are interspersed with dikes of the most recent Miocene age (Bureau of Mines, 1990). Unconsolidated Quaternary deposits include Pleistocene alluvium on terraces along the Umpqua River, and Pleistocene and recent landslide debris in the river's tributaries. The area contains three parallel, northeast-trending anticlines, doubly plunging northeast and southwest (Figure 3-2-1). Basalt flows of the Umpqua formation are exposed in the center of these anticlines. The dam site is near the axis of the northeast-trending Red Hill anticline which is broken by northwest-trending normal faults and northeast trending reverse faults (Figure 3-2-1). (Bureau of Mines, 1990; Geological Survey, 1963).

Seismicity in western Oregon is sparse, poorly located, and poorly understood. The largest historical event in the region occurred offshore of the Oregon - California border in 1873 and was estimated with an intensity magnitude of 7. The area near the Milltown Hill site is notable for its lack of seismicity (Bureau of Reclamation, 1990).

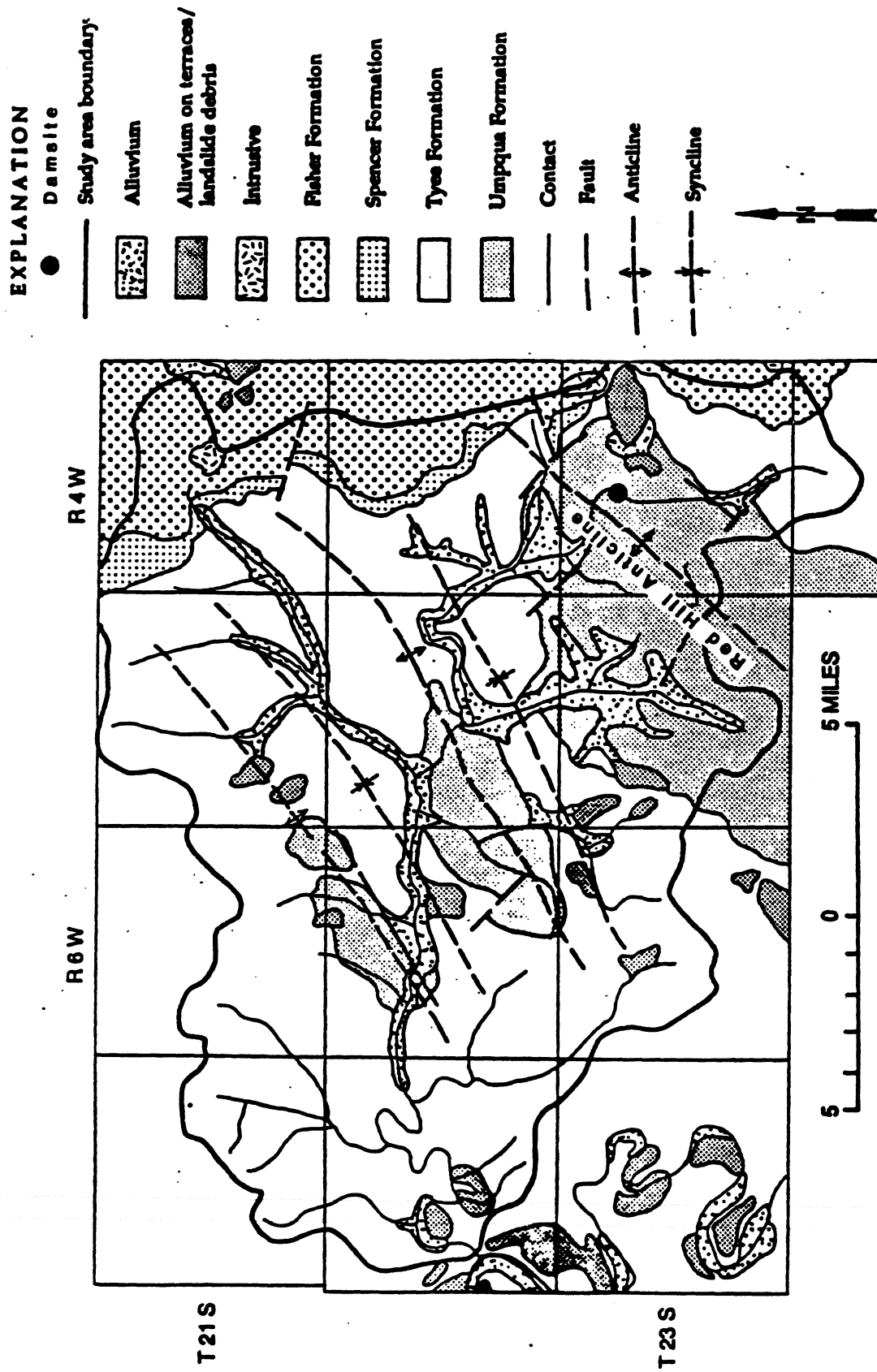


Figure 3-2-1. Geology of the project area. (modified from U.S. Bureau of Mines, 1990)

Douglas County is situated at the western edge of the North American plate along the Cascadia subduction zone, where active subduction of the Juan de Fuca plate beneath the North American plate is occurring. The coast range province has experienced a very low level of historical seismicity and is not known to contain any active faults.

The average seismic energy release in the coast range for the 100-year period from 1870 to 1970 is approximately equivalent to one magnitude 5.0 earthquake each decade. Observations at the Corvallis, Oregon seismograph station indicate continuing minor seismic activity in the coast range area between Drain and Reedsport on the coast.

Analysis of these events, area geology, and geological investigations at the Milltown Hill damsite resulted in the determination of a maximum credible earthquake of a magnitude 6.25. Structures designed for this site should be capable of withstanding this maximum credible earthquake (Bureau of Reclamation, 1990).

3.1.2.2 Impacts of Geology and Seismicity

Historically, Oregon has not experienced earthquakes which would have caused significant damage to a dam constructed at the Milltown Hill site. Strong earthquakes which could occur off the coast of Oregon or California would be too distant from the project site to be considered potentially seismic hazardous. A broad seismic zone map of the United States developed by the Corps of Engineers indicates the proposed project is located in seismic zone 1 (minor damage), which is assigned a seismic coefficient of 0.025g.

Reservoir-induced seismicity is not a potential hazard. The proposed reservoir is too small and shallow to be a likely cause of induced earthquakes. Furthermore, the local geologic conditions and lack of seismicity in the area suggests that reservoir-induced seismicity does not warrant engineering considerations for this site. The lack of potentially active faults in the reservoir subbasin suggests that an earthquake-induced wave on the reservoir is not a design consideration (Bureau of Reclamation, 1990). The dam has been designed to withstand the maximum anticipated earthquake for the area.

3.1.2.3 Mitigation of Geologic Hazards and Seismic Conditions

Plans and specifications of the Milltown Hill dam would be reviewed by a qualified Board of Consultants, to assure that the project is designed according to accommodate any known geologic hazard or anticipated seismic conditions. Construction supervision

would be provided by competent engineering staff. A resident engineer and appropriate inspectors, technicians and support personnel would continuously monitor construction quality. The County would prepare detailed operation and maintenance plans.

3.1.3 Soils and Land Classification

3.1.3.1 Existing Soils and Land Classification

The soils of the Elk Creek subbasin area may be categorized into three main groups: recent alluvial, old alluvial and residual (Bureau of Reclamation, 1991).

- Recent alluvial soils are generally the most productive within the subbasin. They are located on low terraces bordering streams. These soils are characterized by little or no profile development. They are generally medium textured, deep and well drained.
- Old alluvial soils are more extensive. They are located between the recent alluvial soils on low terraces and the residual soils on footslopes and hillsides. These soils are characterized by fine textured subsoils with moderately slow to slow permeability. Some small areas of hydric soils are associated with this group. Vegetation in these hydric soils is predominantly sedges and rushes.
- Residual soils are the most extensive in the subbasin, but are less important than the alluvial soils because they are comparatively shallow over bedrock. Also, they occur on the more sloping lands in the subbasin. These soils developed in place from materials derived from both igneous and sedimentary rocks. Depth to bedrock is highly variable over short distances.

All soils in the subbasin are free of harmful levels of salinity and sodicity. Organic matter content is relatively high, and soil pH is neutral to slightly acid.

Land classifications were made to segregate arable land from nonarable land and to divide the arable lands into economic classifications in which the physical differences in land reflect dollar differences in net farm income. A review of previous work covering more than 15,000 acres combined with specific site analyses and laboratory tests resulted in the land class specifications presented in Table 3-3-1.

The arable area comprises all land delineated in the land classification that could provide sufficient income to warrant

Table 3-3-1. Summary of Arable Land Class Classifications.

Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4P
----- Soil Characteristics -----			
Sandy loam through clay loam except as noted below.	Loamy sand to permeable clay.	Loamy sand through permeable clay.	Same as Class 3.
Sand permitted below 36 inches with available water holding capacity of 6 inches or more in upper 48 inches.	Loamy coarse sand or sand permitted below 24 inches with available water holding capacity of 4.5 inches or more in upper 48 inches.	Loamy coarse sand or sand permitted below 12 inches with available water holding capacity of 3 inches in the upper 48 inches.	No sand, loamy sands or sandy loams permitted.
No clay, silty clay, or sandy clay in upper 30 inches.	Permeable clay permitted below 12 inches.	Entire profile may be permeable clay if infiltration rate is adequate for plant moisture requirements.	Same as Class 3.
5 feet or more to impermeable material.	4 feet or more to impermeable material.	3 feet or more to impermeable material.	1.5 feet or more to impermeable material.
Sodium Absorption Ratio should be less than 10 in fine (clay) textured soils but may range to 20 in coarse textured soils with adequate drainage.	Same as Class 1.	Same as Class 1.	Same as Class 1.
Equilibrium salinity less than 4 milliohms per centimeter with adequate drainage.	Equilibrium salinity less than 5 milliohms per centimeter with adequate drainage.	Equilibrium salinity less than 8 milliohms per centimeter with adequate drainage.	Same as Class 3.
----- Topographic Characteristics -----			
General gradient not to exceed 6 percent but may include small escarpments or other topographic features which exceed this slope limitation when land considerations would dictate their inclusion.	General gradient not to exceed 12 percent but may include small escarpments or other topographic features which exceed this slope limitation when land considerations would dictate their inclusion.	Same as Class 2. exceed 20 percent.	General gradient not to exceed 20 percent
Minimum size of 8 acres. Width of field generally is more than 400 feet.	Minimum size of 5 acres. Width of field generally is more than 300 feet.	Minimum size of 2 acres. Same as Class 3. Width of field generally is more than 200 feet.	
May spend up to \$233 per acre to make land tillable and suitable for movement of sprinkler system.	May spend up to \$467 per acre to make land tillable and suitable for movement of sprinkler system.	May spend up to \$700 per acre to make land tillable and suitable for movement of sprinkler system.	No Development Costs
Cover can be removed with \$233 or less per acre.	Cover can be removed with \$467 or less per acre.	Cover can be removed with \$700 or less per acre.	No Development Costs
----- Drainage Characteristics -----			
Surface drainage can be provided with \$233 or less per acre. Surface outlet excavation needed.	Surface drainage can be provided with \$467 or less per acre. Surface outlet excavation needed.	Surface drainage can be provided with \$700 or less per acre. Surface outlet excavation needed.	No Development Costs
----- Permissible Development Costs -----			
Development cost of \$233 or less per acre.	Development cost of \$467 or less per acre.	Development cost of \$700 or less per acre.	No Development Costs

Major surface outlets for each farm over \$375 per acre and all subsurface drainage will be provided as a project cost. Lands potentially arable, but nondrainable within cost limitations, will be designated 60.

Source: Bureau of Reclamation, 1991.

consideration for irrigation development. In general, arable land is land which, when irrigated, has the capacity to generate sufficient income to cover all farm production expenses and still provide a reasonable family income. Certain conditions are crucial:

- Farms must be of adequate size considering climate and economic setting.
- Farms must be provided with the essential on-farm improvements. Examples could be removing vegetation and other cover, leveling, soil reclamation, drainage, and irrigation-related facilities.

The land classification process identified approximately 7,377 acres of arable land as shown in Table 3-3-2. The distribution of these lands is shown on Figure 3-3-1.

Table 3-3-2. Arable Lands (Acres).

Location	Class 1	Class 2	Class 3	Class 4P	Total
Lower Elk Creek	422	303	231	775	1,731
Upper Elk Creek	230	347	123	185	885
Yoncalla Valley	69	529	1,490	1,213	3,301
Scotts Valley	125	429	516	390	1,460
Totals	846	1,608	2,360	2,563	7,377

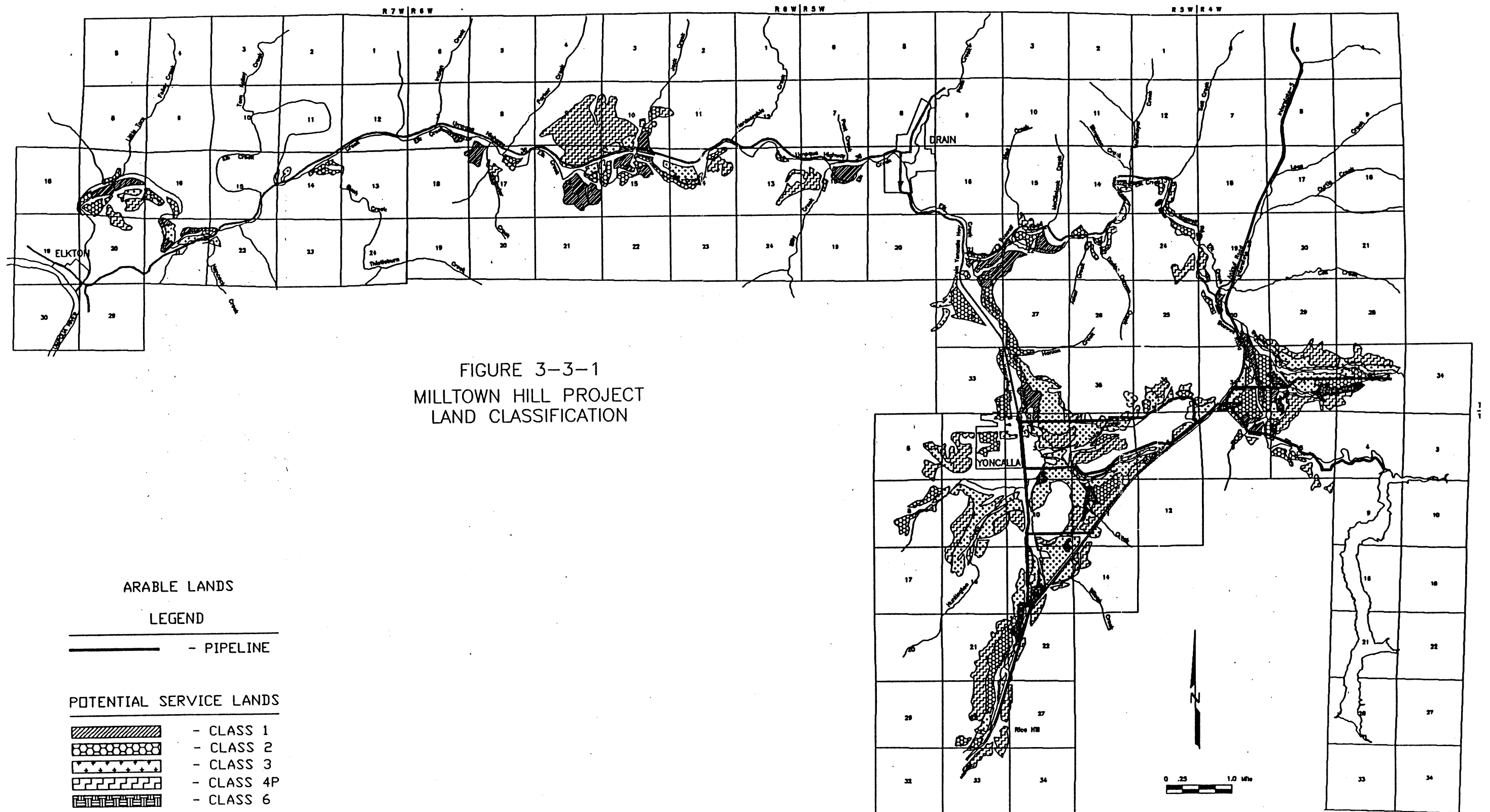
Lower Elk Creek is Drain to Elkton.

Upper Elk Creek is upstream of Drain to Interstate 5.

Source: Bureau of Reclamation, 1991.

Nonarable land is usually represented as class 6 land. Any deficiency that would increase costs of production to where a farm could not provide a reasonable income is considered nonarable. Nonarable lands not measured or tabulated in the land classification survey included creeks and adjacent riparian areas, steeply sloping wooded hillsides, roads and highways, and residential areas. The only nonarable land that was delineated and measured was classed as "6sd;" signifying wetlands with emergent aquatic vegetation. (See: Section 3.1.11, Vegetation).

The primary problem regarding the suitability of area lands for sustained irrigation is restricted subsurface water movement and inadequate natural drain channels. Heavy winter and spring rainfall aggravates the drainage problems and delays farm operations that involve tillable crops. Some farmers have installed shallow tile drains to relieve the water table after the spring rains to allow earlier tilling of the soil. The high water table is a lesser concern for hay, grass, and livestock operations. With the added irrigation component during the dry summer months



(which are normal drain out periods), the high water table conditions during the spring would increase, and drainage problems would be intensified and enlarged. Those lands that may require drainage facilities are shown on Figures 3-3-2 and 3-3-3. Drainage would not affect wetlands.

Hydraulic conductivity tests were conducted in the Scotts Valley and Yoncalla Valley areas and in some of the parcels along Elk Creek that require supplemental irrigation. The resulting hydraulic conductivity rates used for drain spacing calculations are noted below.

- Lower Elk Creek from Drain to Elkton -- 3.6 inches per hour (in/hr).
- Upper Elk Creek from Drain to Interstate Highway 5 along Elk Creek, and from the intersection of Elk and Yoncalla Creeks 1 1/2 miles south to the confluence of Hanlon Creek -- 1.0 in/hr.
- Yoncalla Valley -- 1.2 in/hr.
- Scotts Valley -- 2.20 in/hr.

The estimated acres for each area where subsurface drainage would be required and field cost per acre for drains in each area are shown in Table 3-3-3. Subsurface interceptor drains are also included in the cost estimates. These drains are intended for use in small, narrow tracts of land which lie below irrigated lands that are steeper and which tend to provide runoff and seepage to the areas below.

A significant amount of land classified as arable also has been mapped by the Soil Conservation Service (SCS) as having hydric soils. The SCS mapping is in conjunction with its responsibility for determining wetlands in irrigated areas, however wetlands would not be drained.

The irrigation suitability land classification included a screening procedure for trace elements and other potentially toxic constituents. Some of the elements of concern were determined from Federal Primary and Secondary Drinking Water Standards and EPA priority pollutants. Other elements considered to be relatively nontoxic to humans or animals were included because of potential corrosion, discoloration, or esthetic concerns. The results of these tests indicated that all constituents were within the range of baseline levels typical for the western United States.

increased noise levels. Typically, the sounds of chainsaws and logging equipment during reservoir clearing, earthmovers, bulldozers, dump trucks, wagon drills during excavations at the damsite and at the Otten Quarry, punctured by occasional blasting, can be expected during the 3 year construction period. Increased road traffic and accompanying higher sound levels would be experienced by residents living near County roads #7 and #8. Most of the increased noise levels would not exceed 90-95 dBA, and would occur during daylight hours only.

The construction of the pipeline in the service area would result in some minor, short-term increase in noise levels during daylight hours.

3.1.7.2.2 Operation

Motorboating would be the greatest noise source during operation of the project. Boating would be concentrated in the center pool area, since a barrier would be placed across the narrower neck of the pool at the upper end. Boat access would not be permitted in the wildlife area.

3.1.7.3 Mitigation of Noise Impacts

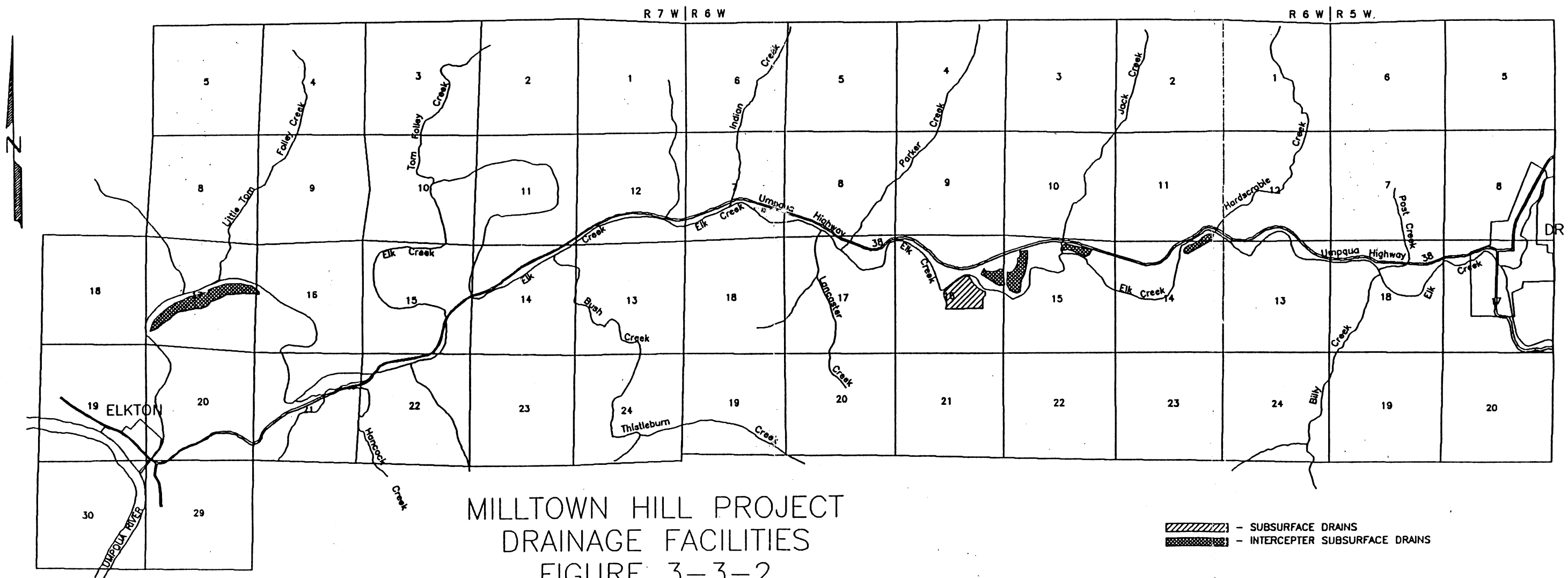
Construction specification would require the contractor to comply with the Noise Control Act of 1972 (Public Law 92-574) as amended by the Quiet Communities Act of 1978 (H.R.12647). Boating noise impacts would be minimal because not many people would be living near the reservoir.

3.1.8 Surface Water Quantity

3.1.8.1 Existing Surface Water Quantity

Surface water flows in Elk Creek subbasin are unregulated except during the irrigation season, when minimum flows (the 1974 minimum flows were converted to instream water rights in 1989) are enforced. Low elevations and mild winters result in little snowfall, but abundant rainfall occurs during the winter and spring months. The pattern of stream flow follows the precipitation pattern with high flows in winter and spring and very low flows in summer (Douglas County Water Resources Survey, 1990).

Recorded flow extremes at the Elk Creek gage near Drain, range from a minimum daily flow of 0.0 cubic feet per second (cfs) to a maximum instantaneous flow of 19,000 cfs. This peak flow occurred on February 10, 1961. Summer flows at the gage fall below 10 cfs frequently. The mean annual flow for the period of record (1956-



MILLTOWN HILL PROJECT
DRAINAGE FACILITIES
FIGURE 3-3-2

 - SUBSURFACE DRAINS
 - INTERCEPTER SUBSURFACE DRAINS

0 .25 1.0 Mile



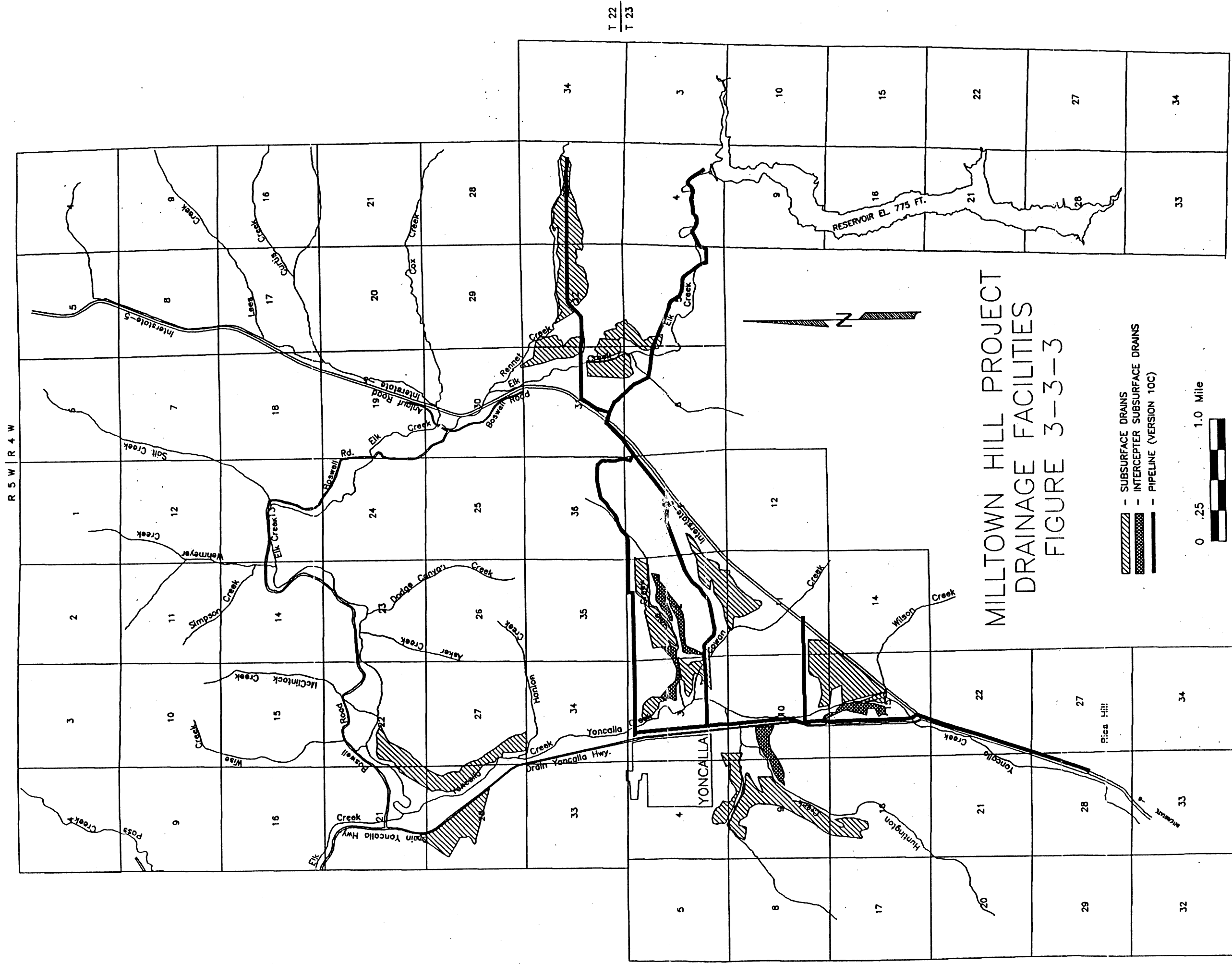


Table 3-3-3. Summary of Estimated Drainage Costs Per Acre.

Service Area	Area drained (acres)	Drain spacing (feet)	Length of Pipe Req'd (feet/acre)	Subsurface Drain (\$/acre)	Outlet Drains (\$/acre)	Total field cost (\$/acre)
Scotts Valley						
w/ Outlet Drains	85	235	185	370	75	445
w/o Outlet Drains	343	235	185	370	-	370
Subtotal	428					
Yoncalla						
w/Outlet Drains	128	165	264	525	75	600
w/o Outlet Drains	506	165	264	525	-	525
Interceptor Drain	114			300	-	300
Subtotal	748					
Lower Elk Creek						
w/ Outlet Drain		425	102	205	75	280
w/o Outlet Drain	42	425		205	-	205
Interceptor Drain	103			300		300
Subtotal	145					
Upper Elk Creek						
w/ Outlet Drain	248	225	194	390	75	465
w/o Outlet Drain				390	-	390
Total	1,569					

Source: Bureau of Reclamation, 1991.

In compliance with the Farmland Protection Act, Public Law 97-99, the SCS was contacted to identify lands classified as prime and unique farmlands. As a result the SCS conducted a survey of the area within the reservoir take-line and the irrigation service areas for prime and unique farmlands. Prime and unique farmlands are defined as follows:

Prime farmland - land that has the best combination of physical and chemical properties for producing sustained high yields of crops when treated and managed according to acceptable farming methods. Approximately 115 acres of prime farmland were found in the reservoir area (Figure 3-3-4). No prime farmlands were found in the service areas.

Unique farmland - land other than prime farmland that could be used for the production of specific high value, high yield food and fiber crops, such as citrus, tree nuts, cranberries, fruit, and vegetables. No unique farmlands were found in either the reservoir area or the service areas.



LEGEND

PROJECT TAKE LINE		
AREA	SCS SOIL CLASSIFICATION	ACRES
A	70A	28
B	72A	94
C	85A	33
TOTAL		118

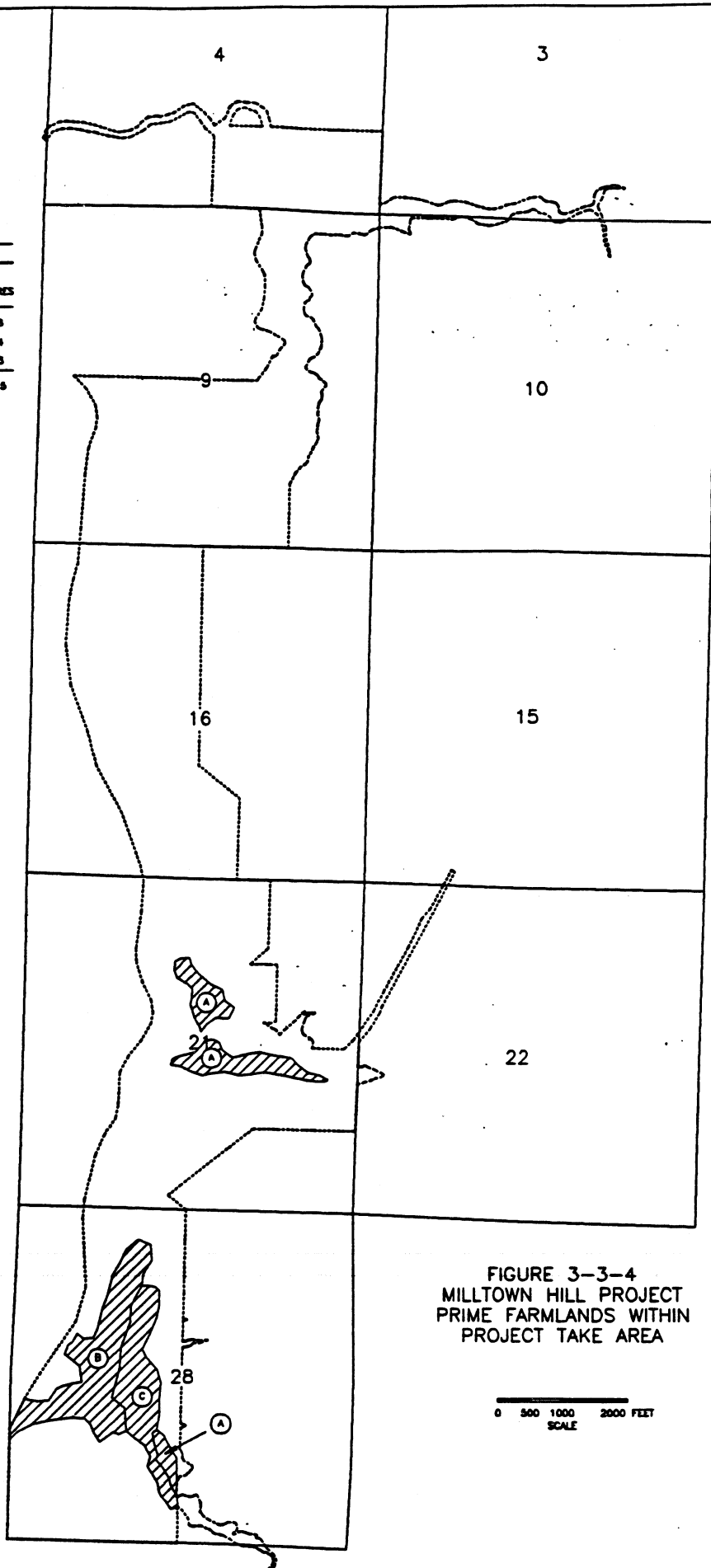


FIGURE 3-3-4
MILLTOWN HILL PROJECT
PRIME FARMLANDS WITHIN
PROJECT TAKE AREA

0 500 1000 2000 FEET
SCALE

3.1.3.2 Impacts to Soils and Land

3.1.3.2.1 Construction

Impacts to soils would occur when the overburden for the dam abutments and quarry is removed, during grading for the construction haul road, during clearing and constructing cuts and fills for road relocation, and during construction of the wetlands in the south end of the reservoir. Some soil disturbance can be expected during clearing of the main pool area of the reservoir. Since all soils would be stripped, it can be expected that they would be thoroughly mixed during excavation and transported for use in various locations in the project area. Mixing may result in loss of productivity to such a degree that these displaced soils would require chemical fertilization to provide for proper revegetation. The soils remaining in the reservoir clearing limits would be lost for the life of the project. The 115 acres of prime farmland would be lost.

Subsurface drainage may be required in the irrigated areas of Yoncalla and Scotts Valleys. This would require excavation of 2-foot wide strips of topsoils. These strips of topsoil would be stockpiled next to the trench, and then replaced after the drainage pipes are laid in the trench.

3.1.3.2.2 Operation

Operation of the project would not cause any additional significant loss of soils or their productivity, however some increased erosion during the first few years of operation would be expected to occur. Some of the inundated soils would be transported and deposited in the lower portions of the reservoir pool while others would be deposited downstream of the dam.

Irrigation of land is not expected to cause significant erosion or loss of soils. The use of chemicals during irrigation would increase soil productivity, without causing soil loss. Irrigation drainage systems would not affect soils or land or significantly affect the quality of return flow water.

3.1.3.3 Mitigation of Impacts to Soils and Land

Mitigation of impacts to soils would include:

- Fertilizing disturbed and displaced soil, prior to revegetation.
- Wetting down soils during construction activities.

- Stockpiling topsoils which would be later used in landscaping the recreation areas and other areas disturbed during construction.
- Topsoils excavated for drainage trenches would be the returned to upper levels of the trenches.

Mitigation of land resources is not anticipated for the irrigation service area because no adverse impacts have not been identified.

3.1.4 Mineral and Aggregate Resources

3.1.4.1 Existing Mineral and Aggregate Resources

Mineral properties in the study area were identified (Bureau of Mines, 1990) by the Bureau of Mines Mineral Industry Location System (MILS) (Figure 3-4-1). No mines are known to be active. The 24 properties include sand and gravel, crushed stone, and mercury. In addition to the MILS data, recent BLM mining claim records account for activity on lands with federally owned mineral estate. The federally owned mineral estate for the study area (as of 1984) is shown in Figure 3-4-2 at a scale to the nearest square mile. Three claim groups, two lode and one placer, were identified. None of them are active.

High-alumina clay occurs at several localities in the Fisher formation. Only the Hobart Butte deposit, located in Sec.31, T.22S., R.3W., and Sec. 36, T. 22S., R.4W., is believed large enough to be of economic interest. Most clay in the deposit is kaolinite of sedimentary origin; however, a minor amount is derived from hydrothermal alteration. Sulfides of hydrothermal origin are also distributed throughout the deposit. The most abundant are realgar (AsS) and stibnite (Sb_2S_3), but these are limited to a few pounds per ton.

Three igneous rock types in the area are useful as crushed rock. They are basalt flows from the Umpqua formation, andesite flows from the Fisher formation, and intrusive gabbroic rock. Large deposits of alluvium, mostly river deposits, occurring throughout the area are potential sources of sand and gravel.

Western Oregon is generally untested for oil and gas, but most of the subbasin is considered to have moderate potential for these commodities. Possible petroleum reservoir rocks include the Tyee and the Spencer formations. Local studies determined that sedimentary rock units between basalt flows of the Umpqua formation are too thin to contain significant petroleum reservoirs.

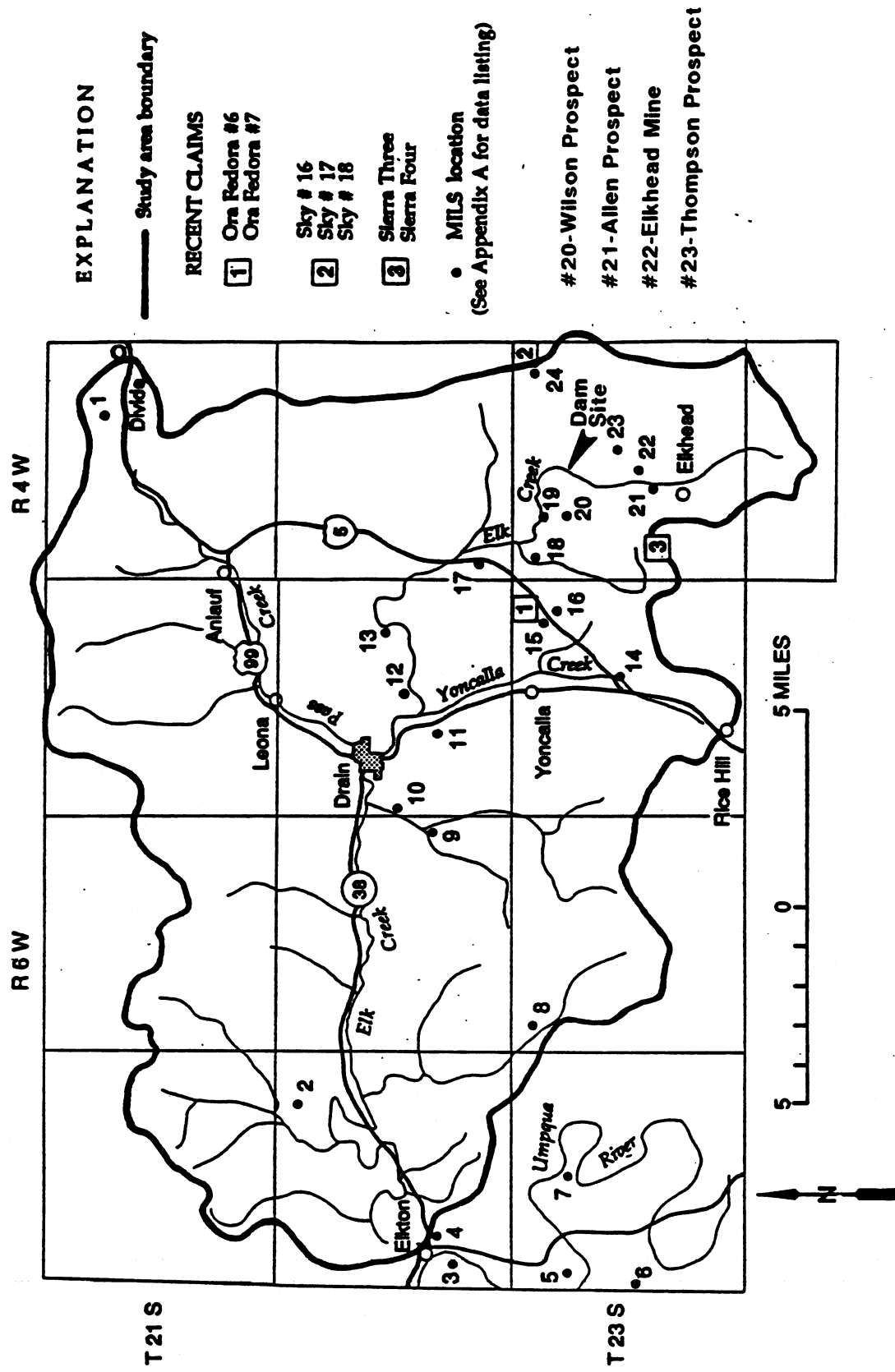


Figure 3-4-1. Location Map of Past and Present Mineral Exploration and Development Activity (U.S. Bureau of Mines, 1990).

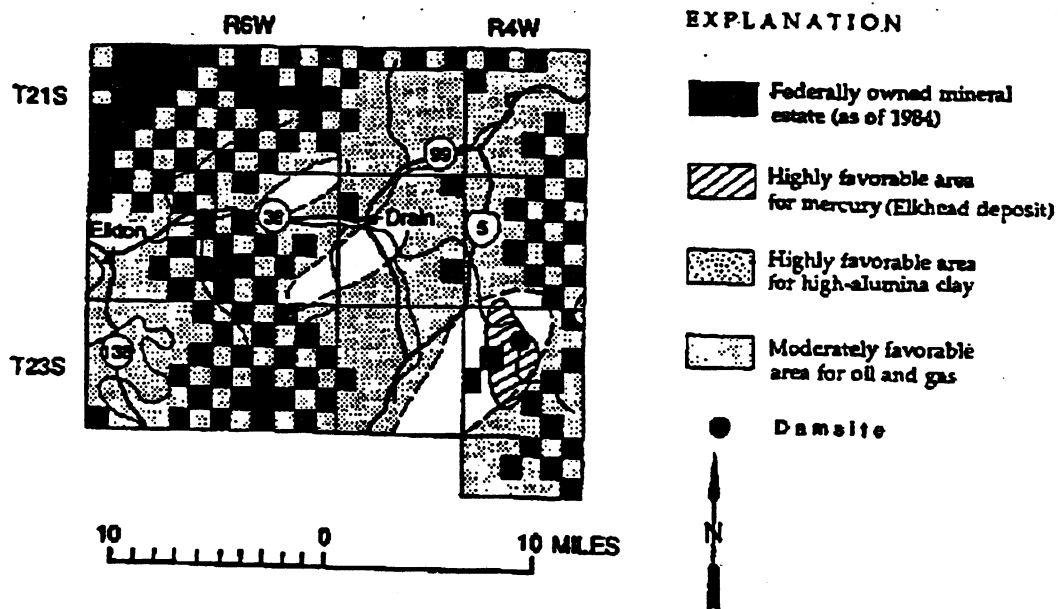


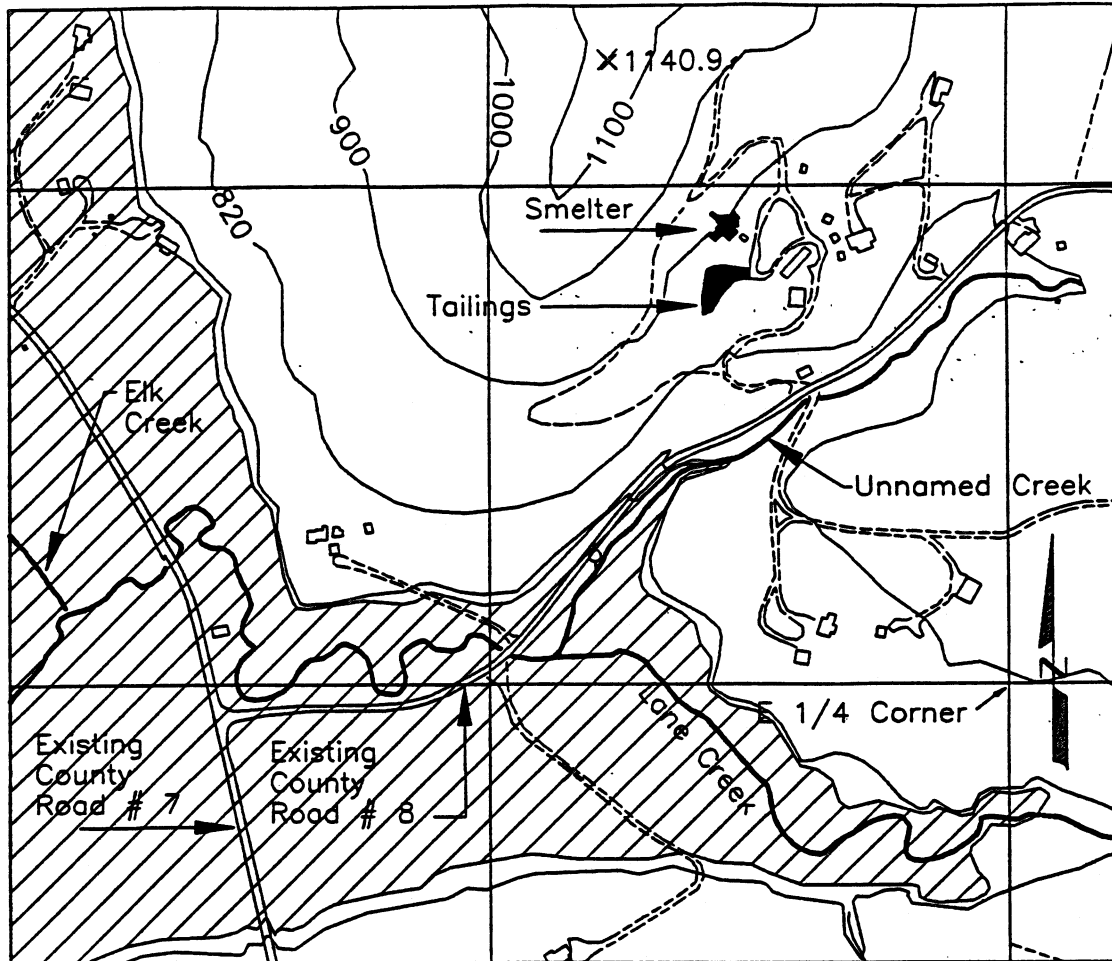
Figure 3-4-2. Federally owned mineral estate and mineral resource potential (Bureau of Mines, 1990).

Four mercury (Cinnabar-H₂S) properties occur within the project area. They are the Elkhead Mine in the NE1/4 Sec. 21, T.23S., R.4W. the Thompson Prospect in the SW1/4 Sec. 15, T.23S., R.4W.; the Wilson Prospect in the N1/2 N1/2. Sec. 8, T.23 S., R.4W.; and the Allen Prospect in the N1/2 SW1/4. Sec.21, T.23S., R.4W. The latter mine is located within the project "take line". However, significant mineral development occurred only at the Elkhead Mine. The Elkhead deposit was discovered in 1870 and was worked intermittently until 1971. Development consists of an open cut and 1,800 ft of underground workings which explored the ore zone to a depth of 150 ft. Just 87 flasks (76.5 lb per flask) were produced until 1965; from 1965 to 1971, 464 flasks were recovered from 17,647 tons of ore averaging 2 lb mercury per ton. Production costs averaged \$9.34 per ton (\$295.96 per flask). The mine closed in 1971 when the average price for mercury dropped to \$292.41 per flask. By July 1978 the estimated costs to operate the mine has risen to \$524 per flask while the average price for mercury was \$150 per flask. The property is currently owned by Bill Dedmore, who acquired the land for residential purposes. There appears to be no current exploration or development for mercury within the study area.

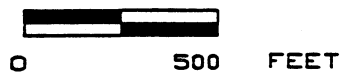
The location of the Elkhead Mine relative to the reservoir pool elevation is shown in Figure 3-4-3. The tailings areas observed during field visits in 1991 consisted of an area at the end of a conveyor that moved the processed ore from the smelter to a tailings pile. The tailings at the end of the conveyor were then pushed to a small ravine and leveled. The existing tailings consist of about 500 cubic yards at the end of the conveyor and about 2,200 cubic yards in the ravine. The depth of the tailings at the end of the conveyor is about 15 feet. Tailings in the ravine are between 4 and 8 feet deep. Surface area of the tailings is about 50 feet by 100 feet. An inspection of the site showed the surrounding vegetation and underlying soil to be relatively stable. No evidence was noted of marked earth movement or slippage, including the existence of displaced or bent trees. Also, the demarkation between natural soils and the mine tailings is readily apparent, indicating that the tailings have remained essentially intact for a considerable period of time.

Although the potential for discovering additional mercury resources is high in the region, including in the Elkhead deposit, it seems unlikely that exploration and development will occur in the foreseeable future due to the probable small deposit sizes and high operating costs. The world mercury commodity summary shows a current excess of mercury in government stock piles. It also indicates that, at current production rates, there are sufficient world resources for about 100 years. Presently, only one domestic mine is producing mercury as the primary commodity. Remaining domestic mercury is produced as a byproduct from nine gold mines or as secondary mercury recovered through recycling. If additional domestic production is needed, it will most likely come from large

TOWNSHIP 23 SOUTH, RANGE 4 WEST
PORTION OF SECTION 21



SCALE



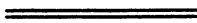


- Improved Road..... 
- Unimproved Road..... 
- Reservoir Normal Pool elevation at 775 feet msl..... 

FIGURE 3-4-3
MILLTOWN HILL PROJECT
LOCATION OF ELKHEAD MINE

Source: Douglas County Public Works Department

known resources, improved byproduct recovery, and increased secondary recovery.

The aggregate needs of the project will be taken from the Otten Quarry, located in the E1/2 NW1/4, Section 16 (Figure 2-2). Approximately 300,000 cubic yards of rock would be extracted from the site and would be used in the construction of the dam. The rock would be moved to the contractor work area for processing into various sizes necessary for incorporation into the RCC mix for the dam. In general geologic conditions at the 14-acre quarry site are similar to those at the damsite. Laboratory testing of cores indicates an ample supply of material suitable for RCC use.

3.1.4.2 Impacts to Mineral and Aggregate Resources

The two features of the project that could adversely affect mineral resources are the dam and reservoir. Based on a 775 ft elevation for the water surface, the dam and reservoir will be almost entirely within the high mercury potential zone. However, this potential zone is based on projections between the four mercury properties previously discussed. Consequently, only portions of the zone are hydrothermally altered at ground surface and represent areas of high potential. Additionally, detailed geologic mapping indicates that only minor occurrences of altered rock are exposed below 800-ft elevation. Therefore, impacts on known and potential mercury resources probably would be insignificant.

No past or current mineral development activity has or is expected to occur in the area to be inundated. Future use of mineral resources could come from commercial sand and gravel operations.

Alluvium deposits with potential for sand and gravel development occur in Section 28, T.23S., R.4W. at the upper portion of the reservoir site. However, there are several larger deposits outside of the reservoir area, which are nearer to potential markets. Sand for construction of the dam (98%) would probably come from on-site crushing activities. The remaining 2% would be transported to the site from commercial quarries.

No potential oil and gas resources would be significantly affected by the project, since most of the reservoir area would inundate a portion of the Umpqua formation, which has been determined to have low potential for this resource.

If mining of the Elkhead deposit were to become economically feasible in the future because of increased mercury prices and/or improved mining methods, restrictions for extracting and processing the ore would most likely be in the form of increased stringent water quality standards enforced by the state of Oregon.

Extraction of 300,000 cubic yards of rock material at the Otten Quarry would require the removal of all vegetative cover, topsoil, and weathered rock not suitable as aggregate material. All vegetative material would be piled and burned on site, the topsoil would be stockpiled, used for rehabilitation of the quarry after all suitable rock has been removed. The weathered rock would be stockpiled on site. The quarry is situated about a horizontal 200 feet from the full-pool elevation of 775 feet msl.

3.1.4.3 Mitigation of Impacts to Mineral and Aggregate Resources

Project impacts to aggregate resources would be mitigated by using on-site sand, gravel, and rock for project construction purposes. Mitigation actions would be taken to rehabilitate the Otten Quarry after all suitable rock has been extracted. These actions would include the following:

- The stockpiled, weathered rock would be replaced over the surface of the quarry floor.
- The topsoil would be spread over the quarried surface and the replaced weatherized rock.
- The topsoil would be seeded with grasses, shrubs and planted with native tree seedlings.

No measures are believed necessary to mitigate any adverse impacts to other mineral resources. The potential for future development in the area for mercury and for oil or gas remains low.

3.1.5 Climate

3.1.5.1 Existing Climatic Conditions

Temperatures in the Elk Creek subbasin are typically mild. The four seasons of the year usually blend into one another without abrupt changes. The average, maximum and minimum temperature, precipitation and snow for 1949-1986 are shown below (Douglas County Water Resources Survey, 1990):

	<u>AVERAGE ANNUAL</u>	<u>MAXIMUM YEAR</u>	<u>MINIMUM YEAR</u>
<u>Temperature (F)</u>			
Drain	53.0	107.0	0
Elkton	54.5	108.0	6
<u>Precipitation (inches)</u>			
Drain	48.4	64.3	32.1
Elkton	54.4	74.1	34.8
<u>Snow (inches)</u>			
Drain	3.25	23.20	0
Elkton	6.14	41.50	0

Extreme temperatures are uncommon due to the proximity of the subbasin to the Pacific Ocean. Occasionally in midwinter, a dry polar continental air mass invades the area for a short duration bringing freezing temperatures into the subbasin. In a normal winter, there are about 41 days in which the temperature falls below the freezing point. Temperatures of 90 degrees are exceeded about 20 days of the year.

Rainfall data has been collected continuously at both the Drain and Elkton gages since the fall of 1948. Average annual precipitation is about 10% higher at Elkton than at Drain. Due to the relatively low elevations in the area, snowfall in the subbasin melts rapidly. For the Drain gage, an average of 3.25 inches of snow falls in a year, while at the Elkton gage, an average of 6.14 inches falls in a year. The average precipitation (inches) at Elkton for 1949-1986 is as follows:

<u>JAN</u>	<u>FEB</u>	<u>MAR</u>	<u>APR</u>	<u>MAY</u>	<u>JUNE</u>	<u>JULY</u>	<u>AUG</u>	<u>SEPT</u>	<u>OCT</u>	<u>NOV</u>	<u>DEC</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
9.94	7.03	6.56	3.50	1.99	0.96	0.41	0.64	1.39	4.15	7.60	10.55	54.52

Source: Bureau of Reclamation, 1991.

Although annual precipitation is relatively high, only about 20 percent or about 9 inches occurs during the growing season (June through August). An isohyetal analysis (Hill, 1971) estimated the average watershed precipitation at 57.6 inches.

Flood-producing storms occur mainly in the winter and occasionally in late fall and early spring. The typical winter storm results from the southward displacement of the Aleutian low pressure area accompanying frontal systems. Storms usually originate over the northwest Pacific Ocean, so accompanying air masses have a long trajectory over relatively warm water and acquire a high moisture charge. A series of waves at times forms within the low pressure area and, moving eastward, cause widespread precipitation over much of the west coast of the United States. General storms of this nature, augmented by orographic lifting of the moisture laden maritime air by the Coast Range, cause nearly all the flood-producing storms in the area (Bureau of Reclamation, 1991).

Data on wind speed and direction is available at the Roseburg airport. On the average, wind velocity at Roseburg is 4.9 miles per hour with a prevailing direction of north to northwesterly. The prevailing direction varies with the season, being from the south and west during the winter months and from the north and west during the rest of the year. The highest wind gust recorded at the Eugene, Oregon, station (located approximately 70 miles north of the project area) was 86 miles per hour on October 12, 1962, with

sustained winds of 63 miles per hour.

The growing season is the duration of time between the last freeze of the spring (32 degrees F) and the first freeze of the fall (32 degrees F). Based on the period of 1949 to 1986 at the Elkton gage, the last freeze of the spring will occur on April 4, and the first freeze of the fall will occur on November 7. This results in a growing season of 217 days. Some grass and legume crops are more tolerant of freezing, so a growing season based on a 28 degree F temperature was also developed. The 28 degree F temperature extends from February 12 to December 6 (296 days) on the average. For less tolerant crops a 36 degree F growing season was also computed. The 36 degree F growing season extends from May 5 to October 17 (164 days). The growing season, based on 32 degrees F at the Elkton gage, has varied from 149 days in 1970 to 310 days in 1979 (Bureau of Reclamation, 1991).

3.1.5.2 Impacts on Climate

The project would not affect climatic conditions, however, climate could affect project operation. Critical high air temperatures and/or low water years would affect the drawdown rate to maintain downstream water temperatures needed for the enhancement of anadromous fish habitat (See: Section 3.1.15, Fisheries Resources). Low water years and resulting low water storage could affect other project needs, such as irrigation, and municipal and industrial uses.

3.1.5.3 Mitigation

No mitigation is planned because no impacts are anticipated.

3.1.6 Air Quality

3.1.6.1 Existing Air Quality

The proposed project is within the Southwest Oregon Air Quality Control Region (Bureau of Reclamation, 1991). Both the Federal government and the State of Oregon have developed standards for allowable levels of certain pollutants. Certain areas have been designated in the Clean Air Act as areas for the prevention of significant deterioration (PSD). The project area is entirely within areas designated as Class II (moderate degradation allowed). The nearest Class I areas (virtually no degradation allowed) are Diamond Peak Wilderness, and Crater Lake National Park, about 60 miles and 80 miles from the project site, respectively.

Pollutants in northern Douglas County are generated primarily by exhausts from home heating, vehicular traffic, and timber operations. Only timber operations have significant effect, and then only when considerable amounts of logging slash are burned. Because of the intermittent and spotty nature of slash burning, its effects are relatively brief, (usually 2 to 3 weeks after the first heavy rainfall in the fall, and 2 to 3 weeks in the spring).

3.1.6.2 Impacts to Air Quality

3.1.6.2.1 Construction

The construction phase of the project would produce short-term adverse impacts on local air quality. These would result from exhaust pollutants generated by construction vehicles and equipment both at the site and during transit of materials from the quarry. The effect of these vehicular emissions on ambient air in the well-ventilated, unconfined airsheds would be slight and well within allowable limits.

Impacts would also be caused from fugitive dust, at the construction site, along the access road, and during rock excavation and crushing. These impacts would be temporary and of little overall significance. Annoyance to residents living along access routes to the project site can be expected. Air quality impacts during the construction phase of a project are exempt from Oregon air quality standards (Oregon Administrative Rules 340-31-150).

3.1.6.2.2 Operation

Operation of the dam is not expected to have an adverse impact on air quality. Exhaust and dust from recreational vehicles and recreational activities would not be significant. County Roads #7 and #8 have bituminous surfaces near the reservoir.

3.1.6.3 Mitigation of Air Quality Impacts

Construction specifications would require the contractor to comply with applicable Federal, State, and local air quality standards and emission limitations adopted in accordance with or effective under the provisions of the Clean Air Act (Public Law 91-604), as amended by the Clean Air Amendments of 1977 (Public Law 95-95). During construction, the contractor would be required to use such methods and devices as reasonably available to control, prevent, and otherwise minimize atmospheric emissions or discharges of atmospheric contaminants and gases.

The emission of excessive dust into the air would not be permitted during the manufacture, handling, and storage of concrete aggregates. The contractor would be required to use such methods and equipment as are necessary for collection, disposal, or prevention of dust during these operations. Rubbish, trash, and other combustible materials (except for cleared trees and brush) would be disposed of in an approved sanitary landfill. Cleared vegetation would be burned onsite or be anchored and submerged for fish cover.

The contractor would be required to carry out measures to reduce dust and to prevent dust caused by his operations from damaging dwellings or causing a nuisance. This would include the periodic wetting of exposed soils, especially on the contractor haul road.

Long-term stabilization would be achieved by revegetating exposed areas. The planned use of overburden removed from the abutments and quarry would minimize hauling distance and avoid exposing residences to dust from trucks carrying material.

3.1.7 Noise

3.1.7.1 Existing Noise Conditions

Existing noise sources of significance include occasional log trucks, automobile traffic, and infrequent noise from agricultural and timber operations. Ambient noise levels have not been measured at the reservoir pool area. They can be assumed to approximate general values obtained for sites with similar characteristics. The only significant noise in the area now is the sound of water in Elk Creek, periodic traffic on County roads, and occasional human activity, including logging. Typical ambient noise levels for rural environments range between 32 and 40 decibels (dB). Existing ambient L10 noise levels, which reflect sound from all sources, should be less than 50 dBA. (L10 is the sound pressure level exceeded only 10 percent of the time; "dBA" is an "A scale" weighing of sound in decibels. One decibel corresponds to the smallest change in sound that can be detected by the ear. The "A scale" weighing approximates the loudness as heard by the human ear.) For comparison, 60 dBA represents the average sound level of normal conversation (Bureau of Reclamation, 1991).

3.1.7.2 Noise Impacts

3.1.7.2.1 Construction

Construction activities in the reservoir pool area would cause

increased noise levels. Typically, the sounds of chainsaws and logging equipment during reservoir clearing, earthmovers, bulldozers, dump trucks, wagon drills during excavations at the damsite and at the Otten Quarry, punctured by occasional blasting, can be expected during the 3 year construction period. Increased road traffic and accompanying higher sound levels would be experienced by residents living near County roads #7 and #8. Most of the increased noise levels would not exceed 90-95 dBA, and would occur during daylight hours only.

The construction of the pipeline in the service area would result in some minor, short-term increase in noise levels during daylight hours.

3.1.7.2.2 Operation

Motorboating would be the greatest noise source during operation of the project. Boating would be concentrated in the center pool area, since a barrier would be placed across the narrower neck of the pool at the upper end. Boat access would not be permitted in the wildlife area.

3.1.7.3 Mitigation of Noise Impacts

Construction specification would require the contractor to comply with the Noise Control Act of 1972 (Public Law 92-574) as amended by the Quiet Communities Act of 1978 (H.R.12647). Boating noise impacts would be minimal because not many people would be living near the reservoir.

3.1.8 Surface Water Quantity

3.1.8.1 Existing Surface Water Quantity

Surface water flows in Elk Creek subbasin are unregulated except during the irrigation season, when minimum flows (the 1974 minimum flows were converted to instream water rights in 1989) are enforced. Low elevations and mild winters result in little snowfall, but abundant rainfall occurs during the winter and spring months. The pattern of stream flow follows the precipitation pattern with high flows in winter and spring and very low flows in summer (Douglas County Water Resources Survey, 1990).

Recorded flow extremes at the Elk Creek gage near Drain, range from a minimum daily flow of 0.0 cubic feet per second (cfs) to a maximum instantaneous flow of 19,000 cfs. This peak flow occurred on February 10, 1961. Summer flows at the gage fall below 10 cfs frequently. The mean annual flow for the period of record (1956-

1989 water years) is 209 cfs. The average annual runoff volume is 151,700 acre-feet while the smallest runoff occurred in year 1977 with 26,300 acre-feet and the largest in year 1956 with 293,400 acre-feet (Douglas County Water Resources Survey, 1990).

The 50% and 80% exceedence flows are shown in Table 3-8-1 for water years 1956-1989. Minimum perennial stream flows to protect aquatic life are also shown. Minimum flows were established in Elk Creek subbasin in 1974 and were converted to instream water rights in 1989, with their appropriate priority date.

Table 3-8-1. Elk Creek 50% and 80% Exceedence Flows at Gage #14-3220.00 (RM 26.2) Near Drain, Oregon (1956-1989).

Month	Natural Streamflow at Gage 14322000, Elk Creek near Drain, OR, at RM 26.2		1974 Minimum Perennial Streamflows (cfs) Converted to Instream Water Rights in 1989		
	50% Exceedence Flow (cfs)	80% Exceedence Flow (cfs)	RM 33.8 to 24.2	RM 24.2 to 12.7	RM 12.7 to 0
Oct 1-15	8	3	10	15	10
Oct 16-31	13	6	30	70	50
Nov	185	28	70	110	110
Dec	357	200	70	110	110
Jan	476	190	70	110	110
Feb	487	225	70	110	110
Mar	321	177	70	110	110
Apr	169	75	70	110	110
May	80	41	50	70	80
Jun	27	17	25	30	50
Jul	6	4	7	15	15
Aug	2	1	5	10	10
Sep	3	2	5	10	10
Exceedence flows are based on mean monthly flows for the project operational study period of water year 1925-1989. Flows for years 1925-1955 (31 years) were synthesized. Flows for years 1956-1989 (34 years) are gaged. Exceedence is the percent of months that had a mean monthly greater than or equal to the listed flow.					
Source: Douglas County Water Resources Survey, 1990.					

Water rights for irrigation, domestic use, stockwater, and log ponds are shown in Table 3-8-2. There are rights for about 19 cfs in the subbasin (exclusive of instream water rights). Of the 19 cfs, only about 1.57 cfs are upstream of the proposed damsite.

Table 3-8-2. Water Rights for Irrigation, Domestic Use, Stockwater, and Log Ponds.

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>CFS</u> *	<u>AC-FT</u> **	<u>ACRES</u> **
RM 0 - 5.2	2.92	608	243
RM 13.36 - 22.0	7.73	1,511	604
RM 22.4 - 25.86	0.95	185	74
RM 26.25 - 35.29	4.61	1,092	437
RM 35.59 - 37.16	.97	223	90
RM 40.48 - 45.41	1.57	312	125
	=====	=====	=====
TOTAL	18.75	3,931	1,573

* Rounded to nearest 0.01
 ** Rounded to nearest 0.1

Source: Douglas County Water Resources Survey, 1990.

Current water use and availability during April through October in Elk Creek subbasin are graphically summarized in Figure 3-8-1. The average flow represents the amount of stream flow that has occurred in 4 out of 5 years, based on USGS/Douglas County records for the cited gage. The horizontal "stair-step" lines represent the legal limit of diversions for all purposes. The lines delineate the chronology of important events in water resource management that have occurred in Elk Creek. Water rights acquired prior to 1974 are shown as the lower band for each month. The next band includes the minimum flow established in 1974 and the pre-1974 rights. Rights acquired after 1974 (through 1987) are also shown (Myers, 1989).

Flow rates in Elk Creek are inadequate to meet instream water rights established in 1974 and rights acquired thereafter, from mid-April through October in most years (Figure 3-8-1). Pre-1974 rights are not met between July and October for most years. Flows decrease to nearly zero in July and do not recover until after mid-September. Thus, all water uses are curtailed in Elk Creek nearly every summer. As stream flows decrease to amounts less than necessary to meet all water rights, the Watermaster administers the stream under the prior rights doctrine. In the case of irrigation water rights, diversions under the most recent rights are stopped. In the case of municipal rights, when junior to instream water rights, diversions are reduced to equal the "human consumption" or domestic component of the right. Domestic rights and stockwater would be allowed to continue diversion if water is available (Myers, 1989).

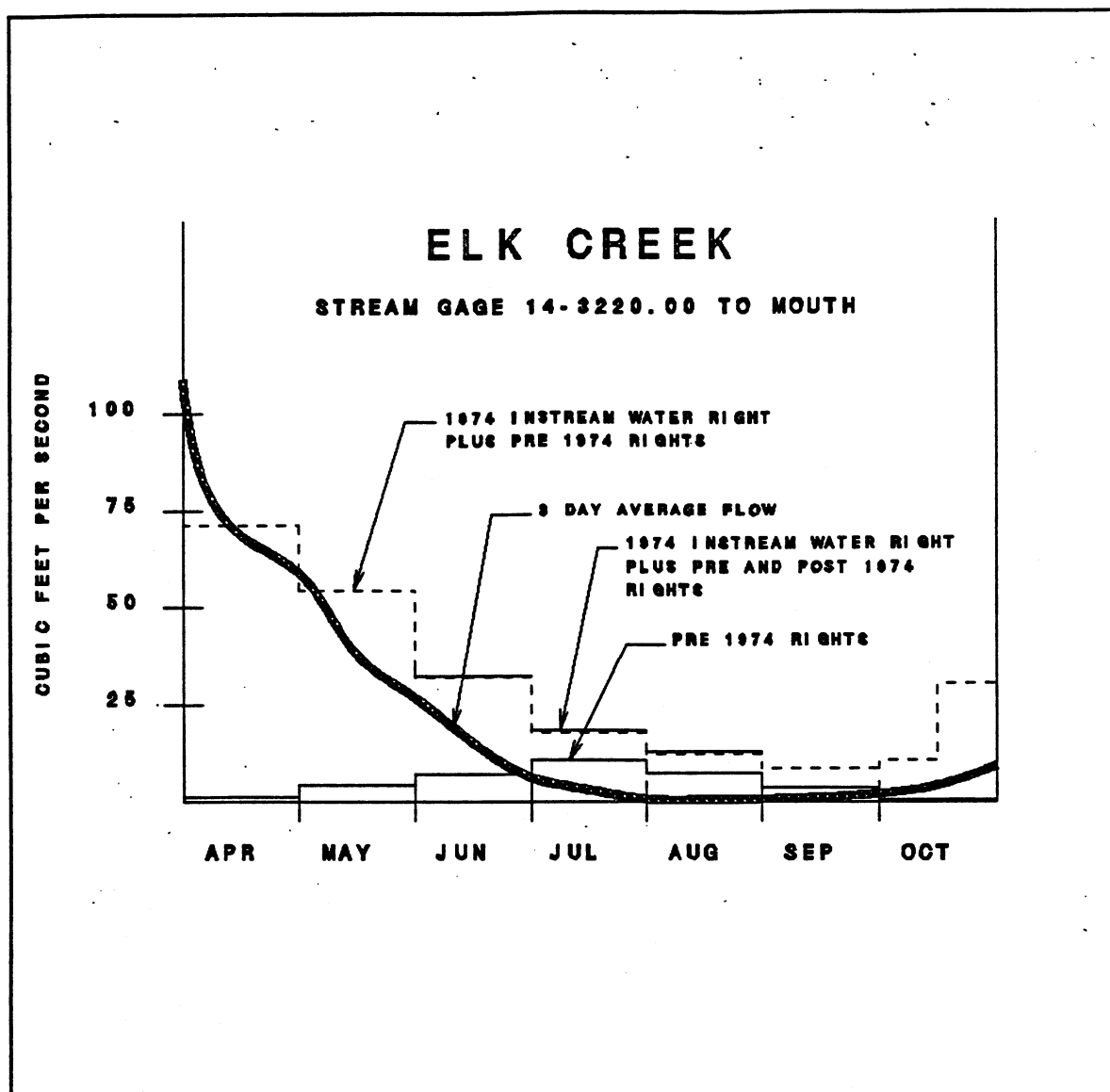


Figure 3-8-1. Comparison of Average Flow and Water Rights (Myers, 1991). Water Years 1965 - 1984.

The lack of flood control structures on Elk Creek has resulted in high streamflows that damage both urban and rural property. Floodflows in the Elk Creek subbasin most often occur from November through March, usually after heavy winter rains. In some years, low elevation snowmelt accompanying a rainstorm may increase the flooding. The largest flood of record, estimated to be greater than a 50-year recurrence interval flood, occurred on February 10, 1961, when a maximum instantaneous flow of 19,000 ft³/s was recorded on Elk Creek downstream of its confluence with Yoncalla Creek (Douglas County Water Resources Survey, 1990).

Property damage from flooding tends to be concentrated in the city of Drain where industrial, commercial, public, and residential developments are located on the Elk Creek and Pass Creek flood plains. During high flow periods, backflows from Elk Creek enter the lower reaches of Pass Creek and exacerbate flood damages near their confluence. Damages to agricultural lands and woodlots occur in the rural areas both upstream and downstream of Drain. Bridges in Drain and in the outlying areas are subject to damage from high floodflows.

In 1979, the Federal Insurance Administration, Department of Housing and Urban Development completed a flood insurance study for the city of Drain and identified a flood frequency analysis to determine the flood discharges for Elk and Pass Creeks. The summary of the results from that study is shown in Table 3-8-3.

Table 3-8-3. Flood Frequency and Summary of Discharges for Elk Creek Near Drain.

Flooding source and location	Drainage area (sq mi)	Peak discharges (ft ³ /s)				
		2-year	10-year	50-year	100-year	500-year
Elk Creek above Pass Creek	105	5,950	12,000	18,500	21,100	28,600
Elk Creek below Pass Creek	168	8,240	17,000	26,000	30,400	41,600

Source: Federal Insurance Administration, 1979.

Studies performed by the County and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers estimated flood damages that are anticipated without the project for each size flood. The results of these studies are summarized in Table 3-8-4. Based on these studies, average annual flood damages in the Elk Creek subbasin are \$205,000. The distribution of these annualized damages is shown in Table 3-8-5 (Bureau of Reclamation, 1991).

Table 3-8-4. Flood Damage Summary, Elk Creek.

<u>Flood size¹</u>	<u>Amount²</u>
2-year	--
10-year	\$ 405,000
50-year	1,065,000
100-year	1,479,000
500-year	2,969,000

¹ Recurrence interval of flood.

² Total damages anticipated from flood based on current level of development.

Table 3-8-5. Average Annual Flood Damages Along Elk Creek¹.

<u>Damage classification</u>	<u>Value</u>
Woodlot and pasture	\$74,545
Bridges	81,038
Residential	36,875
Commercial	5,089
Public buildings	3,305
Industrial	4,170
Total	\$205,022

¹ Annualized damages based on projected recurrences of 2-, 10-, 50-, 100-, and 500-year flood events.

3.1.8.2 Impacts to Surface Water Quantity

3.1.8.2.1 Construction

Water quantity would not be affected during construction of the project. All present statutory requirements would be met.

3.1.8.2.2 Operation

Operation of the Milltown Hill Dam and reservoir would change the flow regime of Elk Creek dramatically below the dam. Water quantities would remain unchanged. Excess winter flows, those flows not needed to meet instream flow requirements, would be stored in the reservoir for release later in the year to meet downstream needs for fisheries resources, irrigation, municipal, and industrial demands.

A comparison of the average monthly flows below the dam, at Drain, and at the mouth for both pre- and post-project conditions are shown in Figures 3-8-2, 3-8-3, and 3-8-4. Project Flows are consistently higher than pre-project flows at all 3 locations for low flow months. Flows for water years 1957-58 (average water

Milltown Hill Dam Project

With and Without Project, Mean Monthly Flows in Elk Cr at Damsite

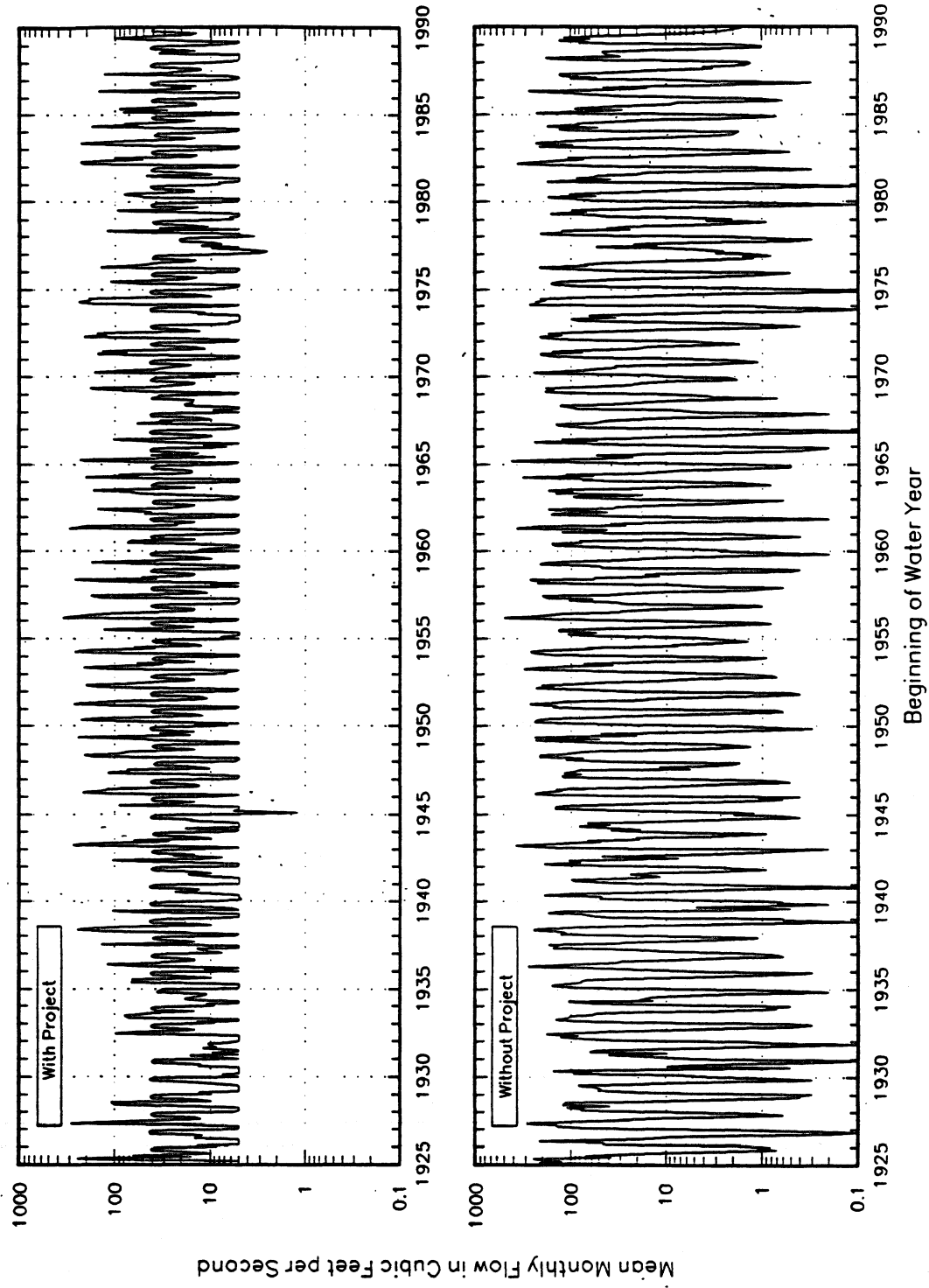


Figure 3-8-2: Natural and Regulated Flows at the Damsite (Douglas County Water Resources Survey, 1990).

Milltown Hill Dam Project

With and Without Project, Mean Monthly Flows at Elk Cr near Drain Gage

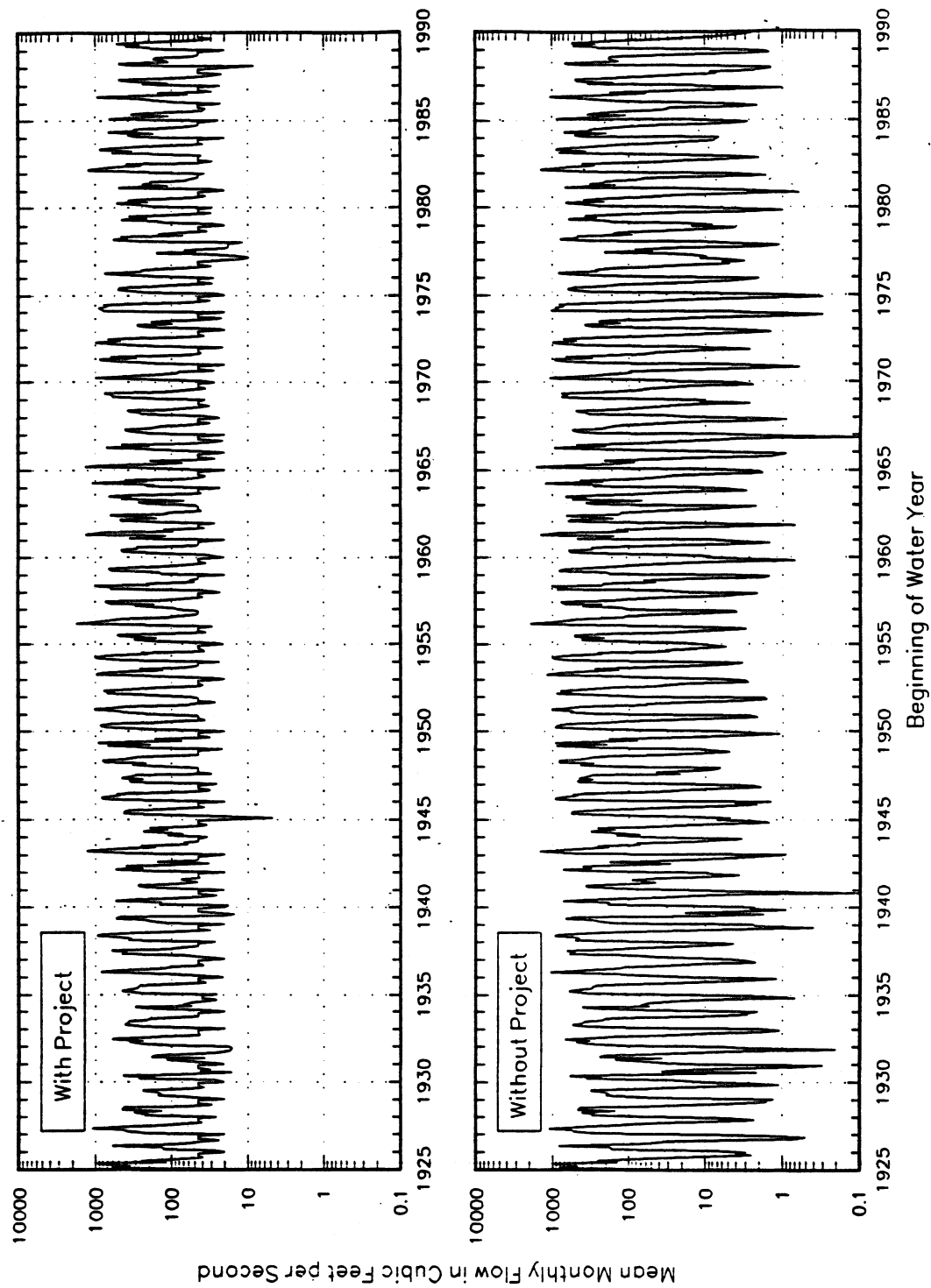


Figure 3-8-3: Natural and Regulated Flows at Drain (Douglas County Water Resources Survey, 1990).

Milltown Hill Dam Project

With and Without Project, Mean Monthly Flows at the Mouth of Elk Cr

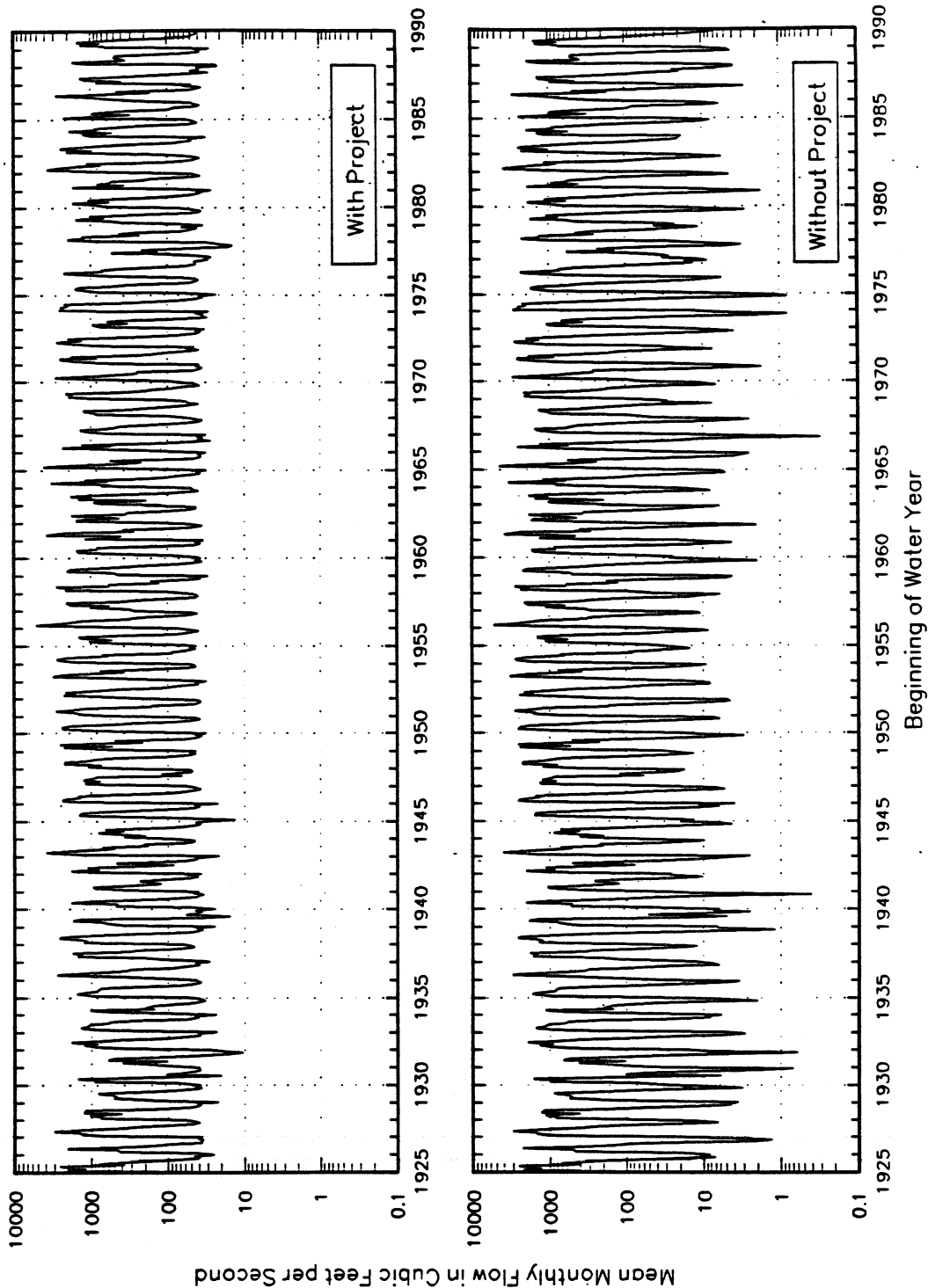


Figure 3-8-4: Natural and Regulated Flows at Elkton (Douglas County Water Resources Survey, 1990).

year) and 1977-78 (low water year) are shown in Tables 3-8-6 and 3-8-7. The flows show the existing condition for the summer months in comparison to the project flows. An additional fish flow is also shown and arbitrarily distributed according to the acre-feet available for fisheries resources for those years.

The acre-feet available for enhancement of fisheries resources would vary from year-to-year depending on water year and downstream demands. In these examples, 6,280 and 1,922 acre-feet would have been available in 1957 and in 1977, respectively. Figure 3-8-5 shows exceedence for the storage release for fish. Although the storage allocation for fish is 7,737, about 50% of the time storage would have exceeded 7,000 acre-feet, while 90% of the time it would have exceeded 5,000 acre-feet, depending on water year (Douglas County Water Resources Survey, 1990).

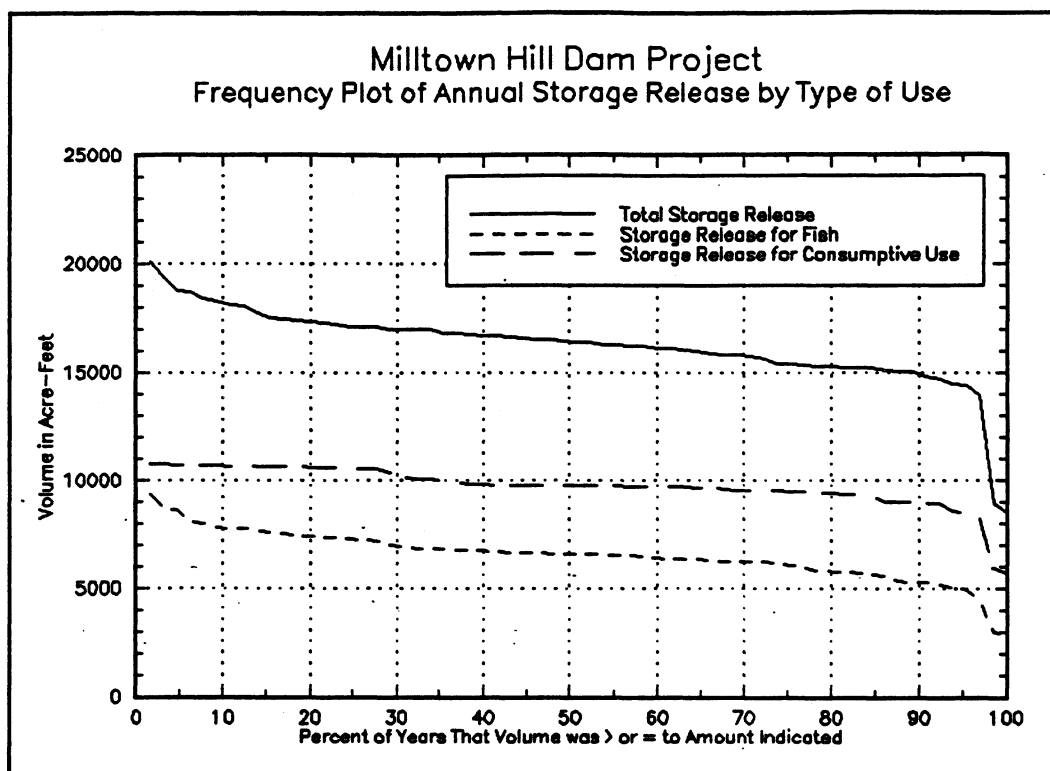


Figure 3-8-5. Storage exceedence curves for total storage, fish storage, and consumptive use (Douglas County Water Resources Survey, 1990).

Flow duration curves of the July-September period for both pre- and post-project conditions at the dam, Boswell Springs (river mile 26.5), and mouth are shown in Figures 3-8-6, 3-8-7 and 3-8-8. Under the post-project condition, a target flow of 5 cfs at the dam is met 100 percent of the time. A target flow of 45 cfs at Boswell

Table 3-8-6. Flows (cfs) at selected locations in Elk Creek for a low water year (1977-78) with and without Milltown Hill Reservoir.

<u>Location</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>October</u>
<u>Dam</u>						
Project ¹	7	10	10	10	6	3
Fish Flow ²	0	0	10	11	11	0
Total Project	7	10	20	21	17	3
Existing	22	5	0.5	0.3	1	3
<u>Boswell Springs</u>						
Project	67	21	8	7	7	12
Fish Flow	0	0	10	11	11	0
Total Project	67	21	18	18	18	12
Existing	82	18	2	1	4	11
<u>Below Pass Creek</u>						
Project	118	31	18	17	19	18
Fish Flow	0	0	10	11	11	0
Total Project	118	31	28	28	30	18
Existing	133	29	3	2	7	18
<u>Above Big Tom Folley</u>						
Project	181	43	6	3	10	27
Fish Flow	0	0	10	11	11	0
Total Project	181	43	16	14	21	27
Existing	197	42	5	3	10	27
<u>Mouth</u>						
Project	212	49	6	3	11	31
Fish Flow	0	0	10	11	11	0
Total Project	212	49	16	14	22	31
Existing	229	49	5	3	11	31

¹ Project flows include natural flows for prior water rights, and project storage flows for project municipal and industrial and irrigation demands.

² Fish flows would be released at the discretion of ODFW.

Source: Douglas County Water Resources Survey, 1990.

Table 3-8-7. Flows (cfs) at selected locations in Elk Creek for an average water year (1957-58) with and without Milltown Hill Reservoir. Flows rounded to nearest integer.

<u>Location</u>	<u>May</u>	<u>June</u>	<u>July</u>	<u>August</u>	<u>Sept</u>	<u>October</u>
<u>Dam</u>						
Project ¹	10	14	19	20	11	4
Fish Flow ²	0	0	25	26	32	5
Total Project	10	14	44	46	43	9
Existing	25	9	2	1	1	4
<u>Boswell Springs</u>						
Project	78	38	16	15	8	15
Fish Flow	0	0	29	30	37	8
Total Project	78	38	45	45	45	23
Existing	94	34	6	4	2	15
<u>Below Pass Creek</u>						
Project	137	58	18	15	8	23
Fish Flow	0	0	29	30	37	8
Total Project	137	58	47	45	45	31
Existing	153	54	9	6	3	24
<u>Above Big Tom</u>						
<u>Folley</u>						
Project	208	81	15	10	6	35
Fish Flow	0	0	29	30	37	8
Total Project	208	81	44	40	43	43
Existing	227	81	14	8	5	35
<u>Mouth</u>						
Project	244	93	16	10	6	40
Fish Flow	0	0	29	30	37	8
Total Project	244	93	45	40	43	48
Existing	263	93	16	10	6	41

¹ Project flows include natural flows for prior water rights, and project storage flows for project municipal and industrial and irrigation demands.

² Fish flows would be released at the discretion of ODFW.

Source: Douglas County Water Resources Survey, 1990.

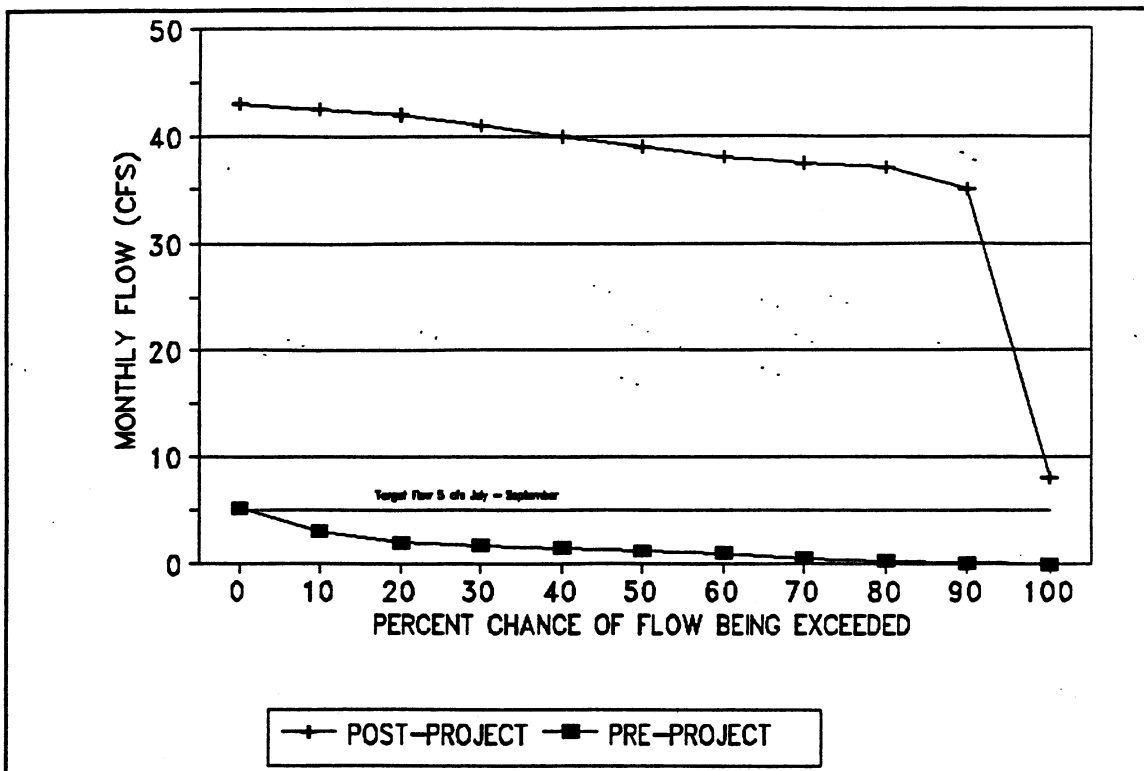


Figure 3-8-6. Comparison of Flow Duration Curves at the Dam Before and After Project Construction (Bureau of Reclamation, 1991).

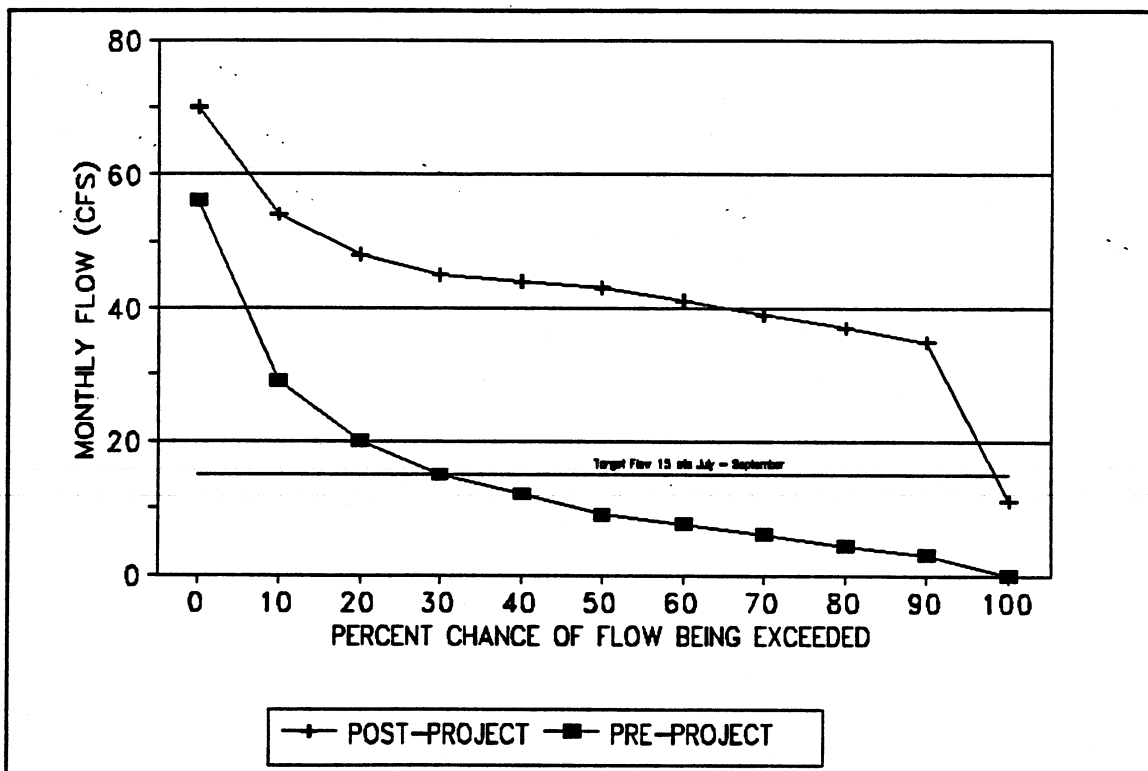


Figure 3-8-7. Comparison of Flow Duration Curves at the Mouth of Elk Creek Before and After Project Construction (Bureau of Reclamation, 1991).

Springs is met 95 percent of the time, and a target flow of 15 cfs is met 98 percent of the time at the mouth. The post-project conditions show a significant improvement in instream flows during critical flow periods (Douglas County Water Resources Survey, 1990).

Operation of the project could reduce the overbank flows by about 1 foot in Drain (K. Shumway, pers. comm., Douglas County). This would decrease flood damages.

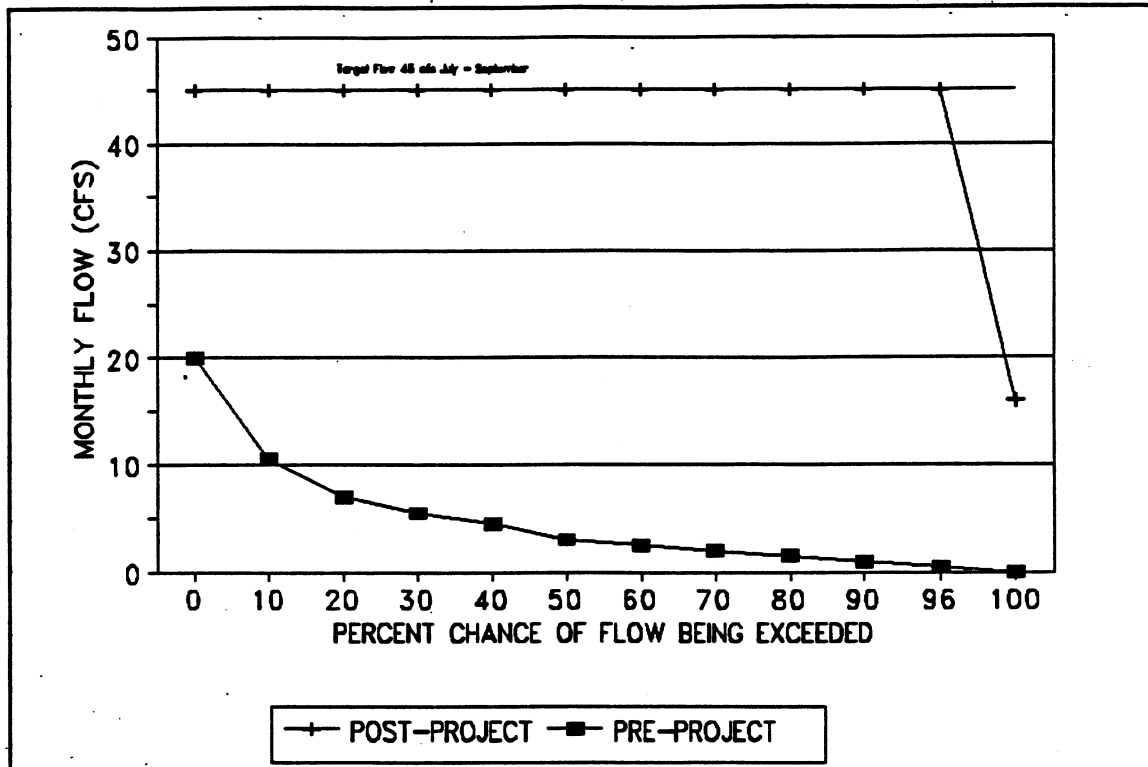


Figure 3-8-8. Comparison of Flow Duration Curves at Boswell Springs (Bureau of Reclamation, 1991).

The irrigation of croplands requires the even dispersion of water to the crops. A minor amount of this water would be lost through evapo-transpiration processes. A major amount of the irrigation water would be absorbed by the soil and become ground water. The increased amount of ground water, as a result of irrigation, would move through the soil and the excess would be deposited in the subsurface drainage system and returned to Elk Creek. Table 3-8-8 shows the cumulative monthly irrigation return flows for a normal year near Drain and at the mouth of Elk Creek in comparison to the average flow in Elk Creek. Return flows are not included in the average flow for Elk Creek.

Table 3-8-8. Cumulative Irrigation Return Flow and Average flow (cfs) in Elk Creek at the Stream Gage Near Drain (14-3220.00) and at the Mouth of Elk Creek.

Location	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Total (ac-ft)
Return Flow Near Drain	0.008	0.50	2.16	4.37	6.28	6.05	3.25	0.82	0.04	1,426
Average Flow Near Drain	192	87	38	44	44	44	28	180	384	52,826
Return Flow At Mouth	0.01	0.62	2.65	5.43	7.94	7.72	4.12	1.01	0.04	1,793
Average Flow At Mouth	545	253	88	47	37	45	65	601	1,236	176,821

Source: Douglas County Water Resources Survey, 1991.

The impact of irrigation return flows to Elk Creek are expected to be minimal. Return flows could contribute up to about 12% and 18% additional monthly flow during the late summer of a normal water year near Drain and at the mouth of Elk Creek, respectively (Table 3-8-7). Return flows could contribute an average of 2.7% and 1.0% of the yield at Drain and the mouth, respectively, during a normal year.

3.1.8.3 Mitigation of Impacts to Surface Water Quantity

The stream regulation provided by the project would favorably affect downstream uses, including those for irrigation, municipal, flood control, and industrial. The impact on fisheries resources would be beneficial by increasing the productivity of Elk Creek because of higher summer flows and lower summer water temperatures. No adverse impacts have been identified at this time that require mitigation however, Douglas County has sized the reservoir to allow up to 7,737 acre-feet of water to be stored to provide flows (in addition to project flows) and water temperature control downstream of the dam for fisheries resources. A plan for the release of the stored water would be developed between County and fish and wildlife agencies. The use of this stored water is discussed in Section 3.1.15, Fisheries Resources.

3.1.9 Surface Water Quality

3.1.9.1 Existing Water Quality

Water quality in the Elk Creek subbasin is generally good.

Water from Elk Creek and its tributaries has been used for municipal, industrial, domestic and irrigation purposes. Total dissolved solids (TDS) are well below the recommended maximum (500 mg/l), for municipal use. Most constituents, including calcium, sodium, potassium, carbonate, sulfate, and chloride are well below recommended limits (Bureau of Reclamation, 1991).

Surface water in the Elk Creek subbasin generally meets the EPA criteria for drinking water (Table 3-9-1), although high levels of coliforms have been measured at times due to the presence of treated domestic waste discharges in the Elk Creek subbasin (Table 3-9-2) and low summer flows (Department of Environmental Quality, 1990). There are about 10 residential septic systems in the reservoir pool area. These septic systems have not been reported to cause a problem.

Table 3-9-1. Mean and Maximum Concentrations of Chemical Constituents and Water Quality Criteria Elk Creek near Elkhead, Oregon (All units in mg/l except as noted).

Parameter	Elk Creek near Elkhead		Drinking Water Standard	Irrigation Criteria
	Mean	Maximum		
Conductivity (um/cm)	12	198	--	<750
pH (standard units)	7.2	7.8	>6.5	4.5-9.5
Calcium	11.6	20.0	--	--
Magnesium	2.93	4.04	--	--
Sodium	7.15	11.6	--	<69
Sodium adsorption ratio (no units)	0.5	0.6	--	<3.0
Chloride	12.9	24.6	<250	<106
Arsenic	<0.01	<0.01	<0.05	0.1
Cadmium	<0.003	0.008	<0.01	<0.01
Chromium	<0.02	<0.02	<0.05	<0.1
Copper	<0.05	<0.1	<5.0	<50
Fluoride	<0.2	0.2	1.4-2.4 ¹	<1
Lead	<0.01	0.01	<0.05	<5
Mercury	<0.002	0.002	<0.002	<0.01
Selenium	<0.003	0.004	<0.01	<0.02
Zinc	0.06	0.17	<5.0	<25.0

¹ Fluoride content varies with maximum daily air temperature.

Source: Myers, 1992.

Relatively little municipal waste water is generated in the Elk Creek subbasin, because of the sparse population. The city of Drain uses land application of treated wastewater. The city stores treated wastewater in a lagoon for summer application. The city of Yoncalla stores treated waste water in a lagoon in order to comply with DEQ discharge limitations. Yoncalla's wastewater is discharged into Yoncalla Creek.

Water temperatures seasonally exceed the limits tolerable to anadromous fish. Nutrient levels become high during low-flow periods, resulting in algae growth, which in turn reduces dissolved oxygen levels. In combination, conditions reach levels that are critical for aquatic life and the appearance of the streams become aesthetically unpleasant. The most obvious characteristics of the existing water supply is the seasonal high water temperatures in summer, and excessive turbidity during the fall, winter and spring months.

Table 3-9-2. Waste discharges in Elk Creek subbasin.

<u>LOCATION</u>	<u>RECEIVING STREAM</u>	<u>CATEGORY</u>	<u>WASTE TYPE</u>
Drain Sanitary Treatment Plant	Elk Creek	Minor Domestic	Sanitary Waste
Ranch Motel	Yoncalla Creek	Minor Domestic	Sanitary Waste
Rice Hill West	Yoncalla Creek	Minor Domestic	Sanitary Waste
Yoncalla Sanitary Treatment Plant	Yoncalla Creek	Minor Domestic	Sanitary Waste
Yoncalla Water Treatment Plant	Yoncalla Creek	Minor Industrial	Filter Backwash
Wooley Enterprises	Elk Creek	Minor Industrial	Log Pond Overflow
Wooley Enterprises, Plywood Mill	Pass Creek	Minor Industrial	Log Pond Overflow
Wooley Enterprises, Highway 38	Elk Creek	Minor Industrial	Log Pond Overflow
Wooley Enterprises, Smith River	Pass Creek	Minor Industrial	Log Pond Overflow

Source: Myers, 1992.

Water quality samples were taken from Elk Creek at Elkton during the months of April through October for 1982, 1983, 1984 and early 1985 (Douglas County, 1989). Sample temperatures consistently exceed 68°F in July and August, and in June, 1982 reached 77°F. Nitrogen levels generally are low, with the maximum nitrate plus nitrite reading at .04 milligrams per liter (mg/l), well below the 0.3 mg/l EPA guideline for aquatic life. In 1982, April and October readings were 0.15 and 0.25 mg/l respectively, which could result from storm run-off. Phosphorous levels also are generally low, compared to the EPA guideline of 0.1 mg/l. Increased values have been noted, such as in late September, 1983 when the phosphorous level was 0.965 mg/l. In April and September

of 1982, phosphorous levels also exceeded the guidelines. Dissolved oxygen was above 8 mg/l in all but one sample, which reached 7.9 mg/l in July, 1982 (Myers, 1989).

Color and turbidity in Elk Creek have the potential to cause some seasonal problems for municipal water use (Table 3-9-3). High color is an aesthetic problem believed to originate from deciduous leaf fall and does not make water unpotable, although filtration is necessary to reduce turbidity to permissible levels. Surface waters in Adams Creek and in Billy Creek have been used for public water supplies in Yoncalla and Drain for a number of years without chemical problems. Excessive turbidity is a seasonal event which occurs during high flows, especially after the first storm in the fall. After the initial storm events, turbidity decreases and then increases as more flood events occur throughout the year.

Table 3-9-3. Summary of color and turbidity data, Elk Creek.

	<u>Color Units</u>	<u>Turbidity¹</u>
<u>Elk Creek at bridge near RM 42.2</u>		
Number of Samples	14	16
Mean	51	12
Maximum	175	45
<u>Elk Creek near Drain</u>		
Number of Samples		35
Mean		11
Maximum		50
<u>Elk Creek near Elkton (DEQ)</u>		
Number of Samples	63	35
Mean	24	19
Maximum	100	120
<u>EPA Drinking Water Standard</u>		
Standard	15	1

¹ Nephelometric turbidity units.
Source: Bureau of Reclamation, 1991

Douglas County has installed and maintains two gages with thermographs in the Elk Creek subbasin. One gage is near Elkhead at river mile 37.5 (since June, 1980). The other gage is near Drain at river mile 26.5, (since October, 1986). Mean monthly temperatures do not exceed 65°F at Elkhead, however maximum mean daily readings have exceeded 65°F during the May through August period. During November through March, temperatures are nearly equal at Elkhead and Drain gages (Figures 3-9-1 through 3-9-4). During March or April through September, the effects of solar heating on diminished flows become evident, and mean monthly temperatures at Drain during June through August are greater than 65°F, and the temperatures at the 2 gages diverge.

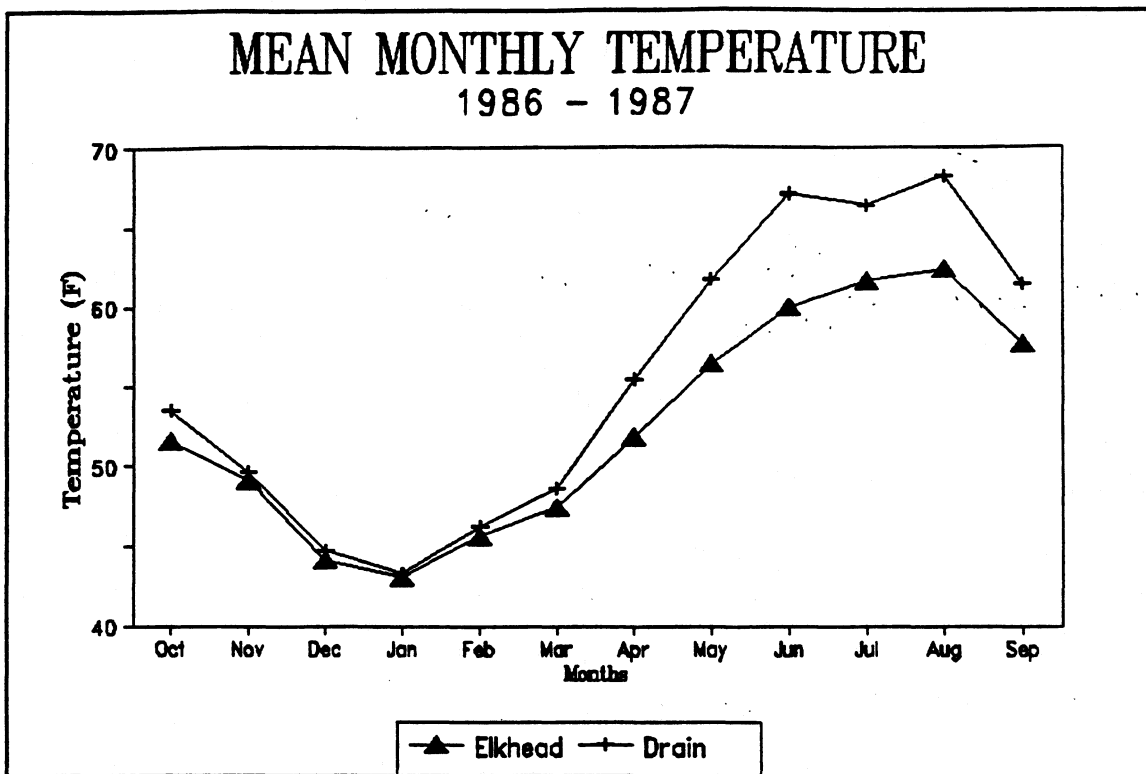


Figure 3-9-1. Mean Monthly Water Temperature, 1986-87.

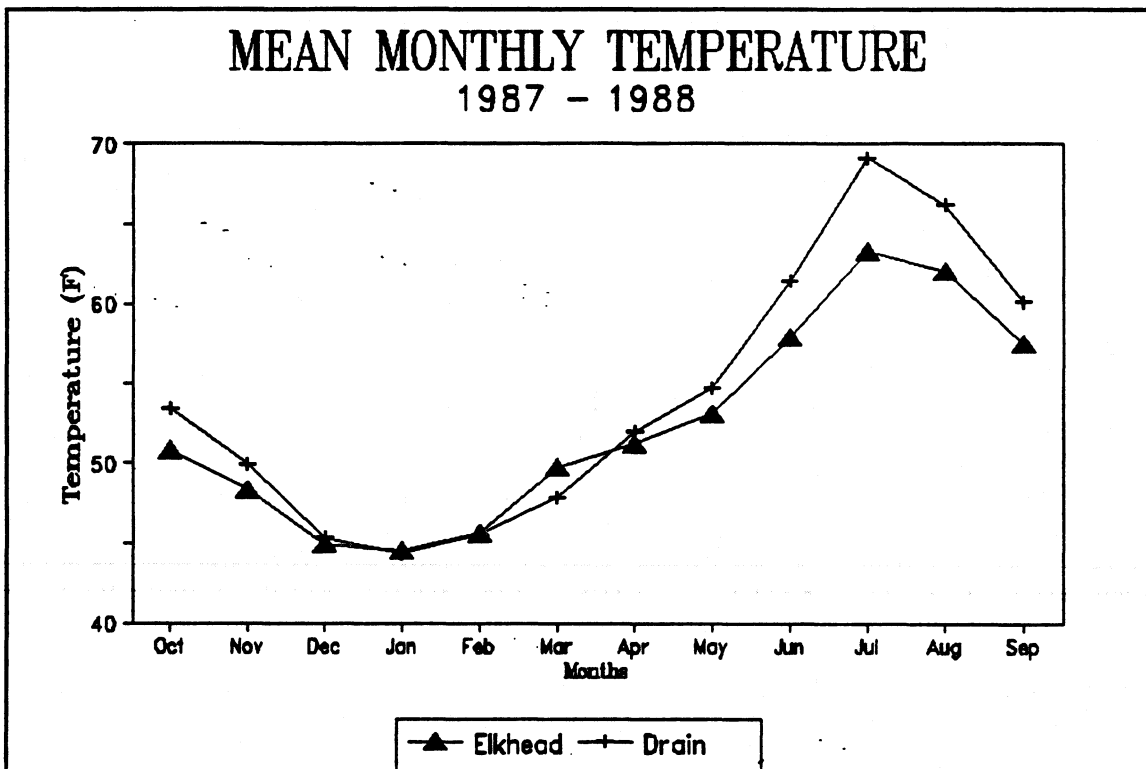


Figure 3-9-2. Mean Monthly Water Temperature, 1987-88.

MILLTOWN HILL PROJECT

ELK CREEK TEMP(F)

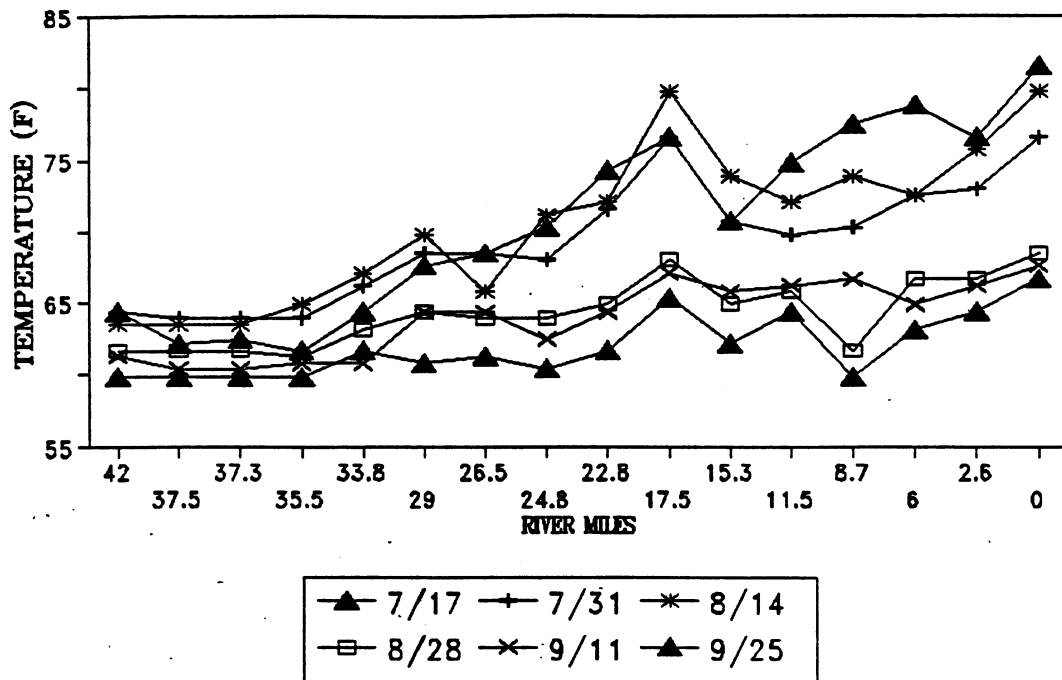


Figure 3-9-5. Water temperatures in Elk Creek during spot measurements made in 1990.

Table 3-9-4. Results of water, sediment, and fish tissue analyses for mercury from Elk Creek.

SAMPLE DATE	LOCATION	TEST TYPE	MG/L	PPM	PPB	PERFOR BY
05/29/86	BRIDGE CROSSING NEAR RM 42.2	PRIMARY DRINKING	<0.001	-	-	DCWR
11/21/86	BRIDGE CROSSING NEAR RM 42.2	WATER QUALITY	<0.001	-	-	DCWR
02/11/87	BRIDGE CROSSING NEAR RM 42.2	" "	<0.001	-	-	DCWR
05/14/87	BRIDGE CROSSING NEAR RM 42.2	" "	0.002	-	-	DCWR
08/05/87	BRIDGE CROSSING NEAR RM 42.2	" "	0.002	-	-	DCWR
11/09/87	BRIDGE CROSSING NEAR RM 42.2	" "	0.002	-	-	DCWR
08/23/88	BRIDGE CROSSING NEAR RM 42.2	" "	<0.001	-	-	DCWR
11/14/88	BRIDGE CROSSING NEAR RM 42.2	" "	<0.001	-	-	DCWR
02/27/89	BRIDGE CROSSING NEAR RM 42.2	" "	<0.001	-	-	DCWR
02/18/81	BRIDGE CROSSING NEAR RM 42.2	PRIMARY DRINKING	<0.0005	-	-	DEQ
05/12/81	BRIDGE CROSSING NEAR RM 42.2	WATER QUALITY	<0.0005	-	-	DEQ
12/30/81	BRIDGE CROSSING NEAR RM 42.2	" "	<0.0005	-	-	DEQ
08/18/82	BRIDGE CROSSING NEAR RM 42.2	" "	<0.0005	-	-	DEQ
05/29/86	#1 SPRING @ STORAGE TANK	WATER QUALITY	0.002	-	-	DCWR
05/29/86	#2 POND BELOW MERC MINE	" "	0.003	-	-	DCWR
05/29/86	#3 SEEP BELOW MERC MINE ABOVE #4	" "	0.011	-	-	DCWR
05/29/86	#4 SEEP @ ROADSIDE DITCH AND BELOW #3	" "	<0.001	-	-	DCWR
05/29/86	#5 ELK CREEK @ ELKHEAD RD BRIDGE	" "	<0.001	-	-	DCWR
08/89	UNNAMED TRIB NEAR MERC MINE ON RD#8 .25MI FROM RD#7	SEDIMENT ANALYSIS	-	11A	2.3B	DCWR
08/89	UNNAMED TRIB NEAR MERC MINE ON RD#8 .25MI FROM RD#7	SEDIMENT ANALYSIS	-	25A	1.7B	DCWR
08/89	ELK CREEK, RD #7, BR#7, 8.45, N.B. 10'D.S.	SEDIMENT ANALYSIS	-	14A	.65B	DCWR
08/89	ELK CREEK, RD #7, BR#7, 8.45, N.B. 10'D.S.	SEDIMENT ANALYSIS	-	1.5A	.65B	DCWR
08/89	ELK CREEK DAM FOUNDATION 50'U.S., AXIS B, LEFT BANK	SEDIMENT ANALYSIS	-	.60A	.65B	DCWR
08/89	ELK CREEK DAM FOUNDATION 50'U.S., AXIS B, LEFT BANK	SEDIMENT ANALYSIS	-	.26A	.65B	DCWR
10/03/88	RM 17.25	WATER QUALITY	<0.001	-	-	DCWR
10/03/88	RM 17.75	" "	<0.001	-	-	DCWR
10/03/88	RM 32	" "	<0.001	-	-	DCWR
10/03/88	RM 33	" "	<0.001	-	-	DCWR
10/03/88	RM 35.5	" "	<0.001	-	-	DCWR
10/03/88	RM 36	" "	<0.001	-	-	DCWR
09/13/88	ELK CR NEAR DRAIN MP 8.2	" "	ND@0.001	-	-	DCWR
12/27/89	ELK CR /BR STREAM MILE 8.2	" "	0.001	-	-	DCWR
07/02/87	BELOW MERC MINE ABOUT 6 MILES	FISH TISSUE	-	-	16C	DCWR
07/02/87	ABOVE MERC MINE ABOUT 1 MILE	FISH TISSUE	-	-	3C	DCWR
07/02/87	BELOW MERC MINE ABOUT 1 MILE	FISH TISSUE	-	-	ND@1C	DCWR

ND = NONE DETECTED AT LEVEL INDICATED

DCWR = DOUGLAS COUNTY WATER RESOURCES; DEQ = DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

A = VALUES REPRESENT TOTAL MERCURY CONCENTRATIONS OBTAINED FROM 1:5 SOIL EXTRACTS; SOIL EXTRACTS FILTERED THROUGH 0.45 AND 0.10 FILTERS, FILTERED SAMPLES ACIDIFIED AND PRESERVATIVES ADDED.

B = VALUES REPRESENT TOTAL MERCURY CONCENTRATIONS OBTAINED FROM TOTAL DIGESTION OF SOIL SAMPLES.

C = REPORTED AT PPB.

OREGON ADMINISTRATIVE RULES
CHAPTER 340, DIVISION 41 - DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

MERCURY - CONCENTRATION IN MICROGRAMS PER LITER FOR PROTECTION OF AQUATIC LIFE, FRESH ACUTE CRITERIA = 2.4, FRESH CHRONIC = 0.012.

CONCENTRATION IN UNITS PER LITER FOR PROTECTION OF HUMAN HEALTH, WATER AND FISH INGESTION = 144 ng., DRINKING WATER M.C.I. = 0.002 mg.

Elk Creek	-	River Mile	37.5
Elk Creek	-	River Mile	36.3
Elk Creek	-	River Mile	35.5
Adams Creek	-	River Mile	0.5
Halo Creek	-	River Mile	3.5
Cowan Creek	-	River Mile	0.5
Yoncalla Creek	-	River Mile	2.0
Yoncalla Creek	-	River Mile	3.3
Yoncalla Creek	-	River Mile	4.0
Yoncalla Creek	-	River Mile	5.3
Yoncalla Creek	-	River Mile	6.9
Yoncalla Creek	-	River Mile	9.0
Unnamed Creek	-	River Mile	0.5
Unnamed Creek	-	River Mile	1.3
Huntington Creek	-	River Mile	0.5

A typical stream crossing by the pipeline would involve the construction of a trench and the placement of the pipe below the level of the streambed. The trench would then be backfilled with rock to prevent scouring of the trench during high flow periods. Due to the proximity of the trench to the bridge crossing, minimal disturbance of vegetation is anticipated, and significant impact to water quality likely would not occur.

3.1.9.2.2 Operation

When in operation, water quality would improve, primarily due to special dam releases made for fishery purposes and for irrigation along Elk Creek. Return flows would not have harmful effects on the surface water quality because of complete sprinkler irrigation. Up to 85 percent of irrigated lands would be in irrigated pasture, with cattle and sheep production. This would limit the use of harmful pesticides and herbicides on irrigated crop lands.

Surface water supplies are expected to be low in dissolved solids, and would have a very low sodium hazard and very low in boron concentration. In general, surface water supplies are ideal for irrigation.

The same is true for industrial purposes; however, surface water supplies would require treatment before being used for domestic purposes. Treatment would consist of chlorination, and probably turbidity control during periods of extreme runoff into the reservoir.

The operation of the project would result in storage of water that would be released to meet downstream demands including those for fisheries resources. Water quality in the reservoir is expected to be excellent because of the location of the dam in the

upper reaches of Elk Creek where basin degradation has been relatively low. The early years of operation of the project would result in minor increased erosional runoff from the areas where construction activities occurred. During winter, storm runoff would increase turbidity and sedimentation in the reservoir, some of which may pass through the reservoir, however, the presence of the "dead pool" (500 acre-feet) in the reservoir is estimated to be sufficient to trap some sediments for 100 years.

The reservoir would have water depths up to about 186 feet at full pool near the dam. Reservoir stratification is expected to result in reduced levels of dissolved oxygen in the lower levels (hypolimnion) which could be released to the stream. However, use of the fixed cone valve should adequately oxygenate reservoir release.

Filter-feeding aquatic invertebrates and their populations would be expected to increase for some distance below the dam. This beneficial effect to fisheries resources would occur because of increased food materials in the release waters from phytoplankton or zooplankton production in the reservoir.

Operation of the dam would result in increased releases of water during summer months. Water temperature modelling of the reservoir releases for several years is shown in Figure 3-9-6. Temperatures of release waters are predicted to be between 40° and 55°F, depending on water year. For 1977, temperature was near 65°F in September due to a low reservoir. Temperatures of release water are up to 20°F lower than natural stream temperatures (Figure 3-9-5).

The effect of the release of cooler water on downstream water temperatures was evaluated by using a stream temperature model (SSTEMP model developed by the USFWS) to predict change in water temperatures between the dam and Elkton. Input parameters, except for flow, characteristic of each month were obtained from Oregon State University, Department of Atmospheric Sciences. The area was divided into 2 segments. Segment 1 was between the dam (RM 39.4) and Drain (RM 26.5) and Segment 2 was between Drain and Elk (RM 0). The differences in the 2 segments were amount of shade and stream width. Model input temperatures at river mile 39.4 (dam) were water temperatures determined with the reservoir model. The output temperature for segment 1 was the input temperature for segment 2. The model was run every 15 days between June 1 and September 15.

The reservoir release temperatures were similar for all years modelled except for the high temperature in September 1977, when temperatures were near 63°F. The average release temperature for the period modelled was used as the input temperature to the stream model except for September. For September, 2 model runs were made with a high temperature of 63°F for 1977 and the average for the other years (52°F).

All terrestrial wildlife use of the reservoir inundation areas and the road relocation areas would be lost, while the quarry would be reclaimed and provide some wildlife use. The recreation sites would continue to provide wildlife use, but at reduced acreages and values.

The HEP demonstrated impacts to wildlife in terms of changes to the AAHU's. These changes are determined by comparing future without-the-project conditions against future with-the-project. The reduction of AAHU's are the product of the reduction of acres of terrestrial vegetation cover-types and a partial degradation of certain habitat values, as expressed in habitat suitability indices (HSI). The HEP study also recognized the gained habitat values that would be associated with the upper reservoir's aquatic environment as indicated by increases in AAHU's for osprey and western pond turtle. Changes in AAHU's with the project for each of the evaluation species are summarized in Table 3-14-3 (Fish and Wildlife Service, 1990).

Table 3-14-3. Net Changes in Average Annual Habitat Units (AAHU's) for the Milltown Hill Project.

Species	AAHU's Without Project	AAHU's With Project	Net Change
Downy Woodpecker	349	190	-159
Western meadowlark	252	90	-162
Yellow warbler	109	10	-99
Wild turkey	584	290	-294
Black-tailed deer	1,005	510	-495
Osprey	0	214	+214
Western pond turtle	8	64	+56

Changes assume both direct losses with the reservoir and indirect losses with road relocation, borrow sites, and recreation developments. Also assumes timber retention in portions of the reservoir and wetlands development at the upper end of the reservoir.

Source: Fish and Wildlife Service, 1990.

3.1.14.3 Mitigation of Impacts to Wildlife

Those areas temporarily disturbed by construction activities would be recontoured and revegetated after construction to hasten rehabilitation of the habitat. Native vegetation would be used to the extent possible (Fish and Wildlife Service, 1990).

The loss of 173 acres of riparian vegetation by reservoir inundation, would be mitigated by habitat enhancement on portions of Elk Creek downstream of the project site. Restoration could include plantings and/or fencing in areas where vegetation has been impacted by grazing, brush clearing, and other human activities. The County would develop a riparian program to identify problem

DAM TO MOUTH--2 SEGMENTS JUNE 15, 1990

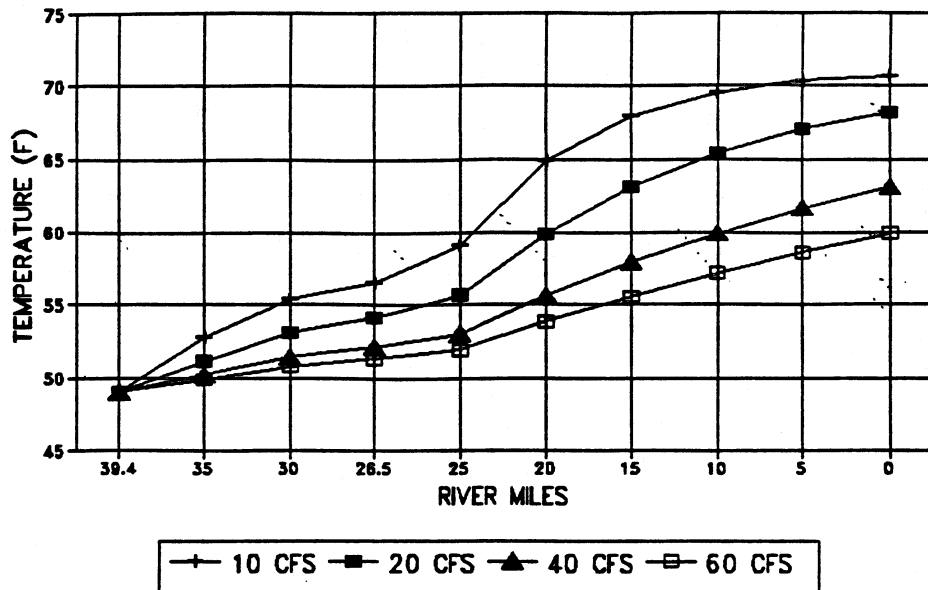


Figure 3-9-7. Predicted Average Stream Water Temperatures for June 15.

DAM TO MOUTH--2 SEGMENTS JULY 15, 1990

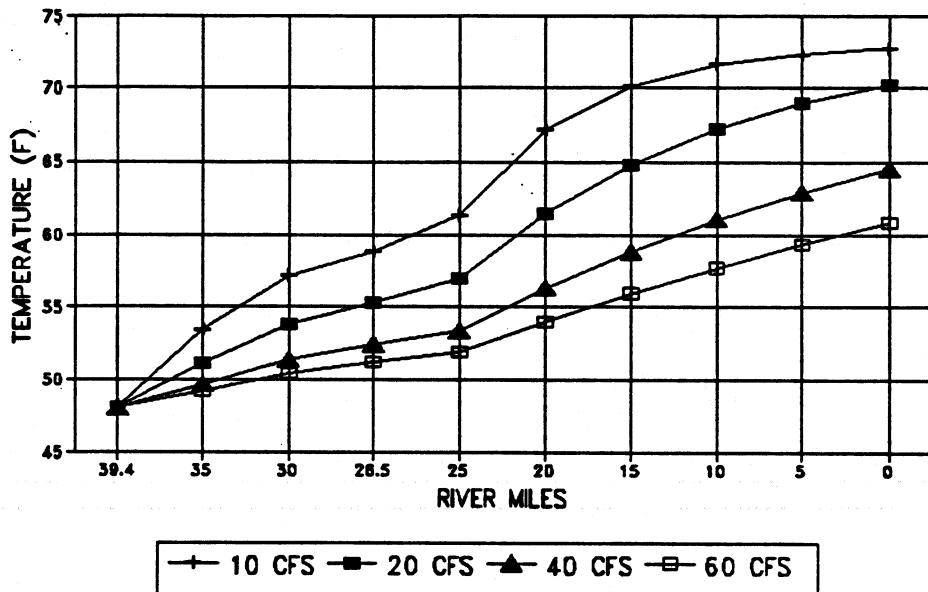


Figure 3-9-8. Predicted Average Stream Water Temperatures for July 15.

reservoir. Sodding, erosion mats, riprap, bale dikes, flumes or other appropriate measures would be used where erosion might occur.

To minimize erosion from the haul road, the contractor would be required to install silt curtains the length of the west side of the road. In addition, sediment settling ponds would be required in selected drainages where erosion could be significant. These drainages would be identified and measures implemented prior to construction.

The settling ponds for aggregate processing and cleaning would comply with State and Federal water quality standards that define a mixing zone. Recycling of water in these ponds would be implemented to reduce flow from the settling ponds to Elk Creek.

The existing septic tanks in the pool area would be pumped, filled with sand, and sealed as buildings are abandoned.

Dewatering work for structure foundations or earthwork operations adjacent to, or encroaching on, streams or watercourses would be conducted in a manner to prevent muddy water and eroded materials from entering the streams or watercourses by construction of intercepting ditches, bypass channels, barriers, settling ponds, or by other approved means. Excavated materials or other construction materials would be stockpiled or deposited away from streambanks and wetlands to prevent them from being washed away by high water or storm runoff.

The potential for adverse impacts due to oil and fuel spills would be reduced through care in handling these substances. Further, specific equipment repair and fuel storage areas would be selected away from Elk Creek.

Efforts to minimize impacts to water quality during operation of the project include utilization of multilevel outlets, removal of organic debris in the reservoir, minimization of soil disturbance in the reservoir, use of an aeration valve (fixed cone valve). A multilevel outlet system is planned for the reservoir to control potential water quality impacts below the dam. The multilevel outlet would be operated to optimize temperatures of release flows for anadromous fish during summer months. The release temperature would be regulated as much as possible to meet goals developed by Douglas County and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to maximize fish production in Elk Creek (See: Section 3.1.15, Fisheries Resources). In addition to temperature measurements at the dam, a control point would be established between the damsite and Drain to monitor downstream water quality conditions.

Potential impacts due to low dissolved oxygen concentrations in the reservoir would be minimized by removing as much organic debris from the reservoir subbasin before it is filled. An

exception would be the debris piles left in the reservoir area for fish enhancement (See: Section 3.1.15, Fisheries Resources). An effort would be made during this clearing process to minimize soil disturbances by leaving tree stumps in place. Low dissolved oxygen concentration releases from the reservoir would be minimized by an aeration-type control valve installed in the outlet works.

A ramping rate would be established to minimize rapid increases in water level below the dam that might increase erosion. The rate would be established after review by ODFW, USFWS, and NMFS.

Water quality impacts at pipeline stream crossings would be minimized by construction during low (<5cfs) or no flow months. Most of the streams are intermittent during the summer with the exception of Adams Creek and Elk Creek. Flows in these creeks typically decrease to less than 5 cfs during summer months. Streambanks would be restored as nearly as possible to their original condition, seeded with native grasses, and protected from erosion. The additional water released during the summer months would dilute the concentrations of pollutants in domestic and industrial discharges from Yoncalla, Drain, and Rice Hill to subbasin streams (See: Table 3-9-2, Waste Discharges in Elk Creek Subbasin).

All water deliveries for irrigation would be metered. An incremental rate structure would help prevent significant agricultural runoff and the potential for adding agricultural chemicals to the surface water supply. Surface runoff would be negligible during irrigation season and would be diluted by increased stream flows during summer months. Water quality monitoring would be implemented by Douglas County for the reservoir inflows and outflows to establish levels of various nutrients (nitrates and phosphates), mercury, water temperature, pH, and dissolved oxygen.

In the unlikely event that the Elkhead mine is reopened, measures would be required of the mine operator to ensure that contamination of the reservoir does not occur as a result of mine operation. Stringent measures to regulate siting of tailings areas and waste streams would be enforced to comply with applicable local, State and Federal regulations. Erosion of the tailings area runoff would be monitored. If considered necessary, a diversion ditch would be constructed to carry any drainage water away from the tailing area to minimize erosion.

Water quality monitoring required to assure that applicable State and Federal water quality standards are met during construction would be done by the contractor and monitored by Douglas County. Water quality monitoring during operation would be conducted by Douglas County.

3.1.10 Ground Water

3.1.10.1 Existing Ground Water Conditions

Groundwater resources in the Elk Creek subbasin are limited. The majority of the underlying bedrock units consist of Jurassic and Cretaceous age altered sedimentary and volcanic rocks which have low permeability. Water storage in these units is generally in fractures, joints and bedding planes (Bureau of Reclamation, 1991).

The major portion of the rainfall in this subbasin falls on these relatively impermeable bedrock units. Greater than 90 percent of the rainfall is lost in runoff to the seasonal streams with very little recharge to the ground-water system because of the low permeability of the bedrock units (Bureau of Reclamation, 1991). As a result of this, adequate groundwater storage for natural stream regulation does not occur.

In 1977, the U.S. Geological Survey prepared a water resources investigation map for a portion of Douglas County (Robinson and Collins, 1977). The following is taken from this report:

"Depth to water in wells in the project area ranges from slightly below land surface to as deep as 256 feet. In most places, the depth to water is less than one contour interval of land-surface altitude (80 feet). Thus a map of the altitude of the water table would be a virtual facsimile of the topographic base. Water tends to move in response to differences in water levels, but permeability, and therefore water movement in the reported area is usually greatest parallel to bedding planes in a formation, which are seldom horizontal. Water levels of wells that are unaffected by pumping fluctuate seasonally about 4 to 6 feet, the highest levels occurring during the rainy season, in winter or early spring."

"Alluvium floors the larger valleys, such as those formed by Pass, Yoncalla and Elk Creeks. Alluvium in these creeks are generally thin. In the Drain-Yoncalla area there is little, if any, saturated permeable alluvium at depths greater than 18 feet. The oldest rock exposed in the Drain-Yoncalla area is the Umpqua Formation, which has been subdivided into a lower basalt member and upper sedimentary member consisting of sandstone and siltstone. Wells in the sedimentary rocks yield less than 10 gal/min. Well yields vary widely in the basalt member, the maximum yield reported is 40 gal/min."

3.1.10.2 Ground Water Impacts

3.1.10.2.1 Construction

The construction of a reservoir generally alters the ground-water regime in response to changing the local water conditions where the water is impounded. The local water table will usually rise to the elevation of the new water reservoir. Because the permeability of the bedrock units is low, this change may occur over a long period of time. The increase in water levels may affect the stability of the wetted slopes facing the reservoir. The quality and quantity of ground water is not expected to significantly change with the construction of the dam.

3.1.10.2.2 Operation

Areas of slope instability in the reservoir zone could be affected by a rise in ground water. Additional stresses imposed by the rise in water levels could reactivate old landslides and could temporarily affect reservoir water quality.

The effect of increased irrigation on ground water was considered. Sprinkler irrigation methods, properly timed, conserve water and minimize leaching. Consequently, only small amounts of water are expected to reach existing ground water levels through the typically fine- to medium-grained soils. Nutrients, salts, and agricultural chemicals would undoubtedly be carried downward from the surface into the upper soil zone. It is unlikely, however, they would reach the ground water in high concentrations due to physical and chemical filtration processes in the upper soil.

The irrigation return flows to Elk Creek are not considered crucial to maintenance of flows in Elk Creek. The return flows would contribute a small proportion to meeting instream needs for flows, such as for fisheries resources. Also, the relatively small amount of irrigation return flow would not exceed the hydraulic capacity of Elk Creek (See: Section 3.1.8, Water Quantity).

Operation of properly installed subsurface drainage systems during the irrigation season, and during the non-irrigation season should result in improved ground water quality. The systems would provide an improved means of movement of water through the soil, thereby dispersing and equalizing soil nutrients found in the water. Return flows would not have harmful effects on ground water quality or Elk Creek. Project water supplies are expected to be low in dissolved solids, have a very low sodium hazard, and very low boron concentration. In general, project surface water supplies are ideal for irrigation (Hill, 1971).

3.1.10.3 Mitigation of Ground Water Impacts

Areas of slope instability in the reservoir area would be identified by additional field work in the design phase. Problem areas identified would be stabilized or protected to prevent mass soil movement into the pool.

Minor adverse impacts to ground water quality during construction of a subsurface drainage system, if needed, would be lessened by limiting construction activities to the late summer months, when ground water and surface water flows are low.

Impacts during operation would be mitigated by the low amounts of return flow and the releases from the project for instream flows which would dilute return flows. Return flows would be diluted by at least 5 to 1 when return flows are highest during an average year.

3.1.11 Vegetation

3.1.11.1 Existing Vegetation

3.1.11.1.1 Uplands

Interior valley vegetation, mixed evergreen forests, and mixed coniferous forests, as defined by Franklin and Dyrness (1973) form the major vegetation zones in the Elk Creek subbasin. Elk Creek supports a relatively narrow zone of riparian vegetation. Extensive human activities (e.g., clearing, logging, grazing, and agriculture) have created a patchwork of altered vegetative types throughout the project area (Fish and Wildlife Service, 1990).

Interior valley vegetation predominates the valley bottoms surrounding lower Elk Creek below Drain. This area is an interspersed of pastures and oak woodlands. The woodlands are composed of Oregon white oak and to a lesser extent black oak, with understory shrubs such as poison oak, scotch broom, elderberry, western hazel, trailing blackberry, and wild rose. Pasturelands are a mixture of introduced and native grasses and annuals. Many pastures have been seeded with species such as rye grass and subclover (Fish and Wildlife Service, 1990).

The mixed-evergreen zone has an overstory of Douglas-fir, western redcedar, and Pacific madrone, with an understory of tanbark oak, Oregon white oak, chinquapin, and various oak species. The shrub layer is often well developed and includes species such as manzanita, Oregon grape, poison oak, and trailing blackberry.

The mixed-conifer zone occurs at the higher elevations and on

the wetter, cooler canyon slopes. Overstory trees include Douglas-fir, western redcedar, and grand fir. Bigleaf maple and Pacific madrone occur sporadically throughout this zone. Understory plants include salal, ocean spray, black hawthorn, sword fern, and bracken fern. This zone has undergone extensive logging and is mostly second-growth, with small patches of mature timber remaining on public lands and in the more inaccessible areas of private land. General vegetation types within the project take-line are shown in Figure 3-11-1.

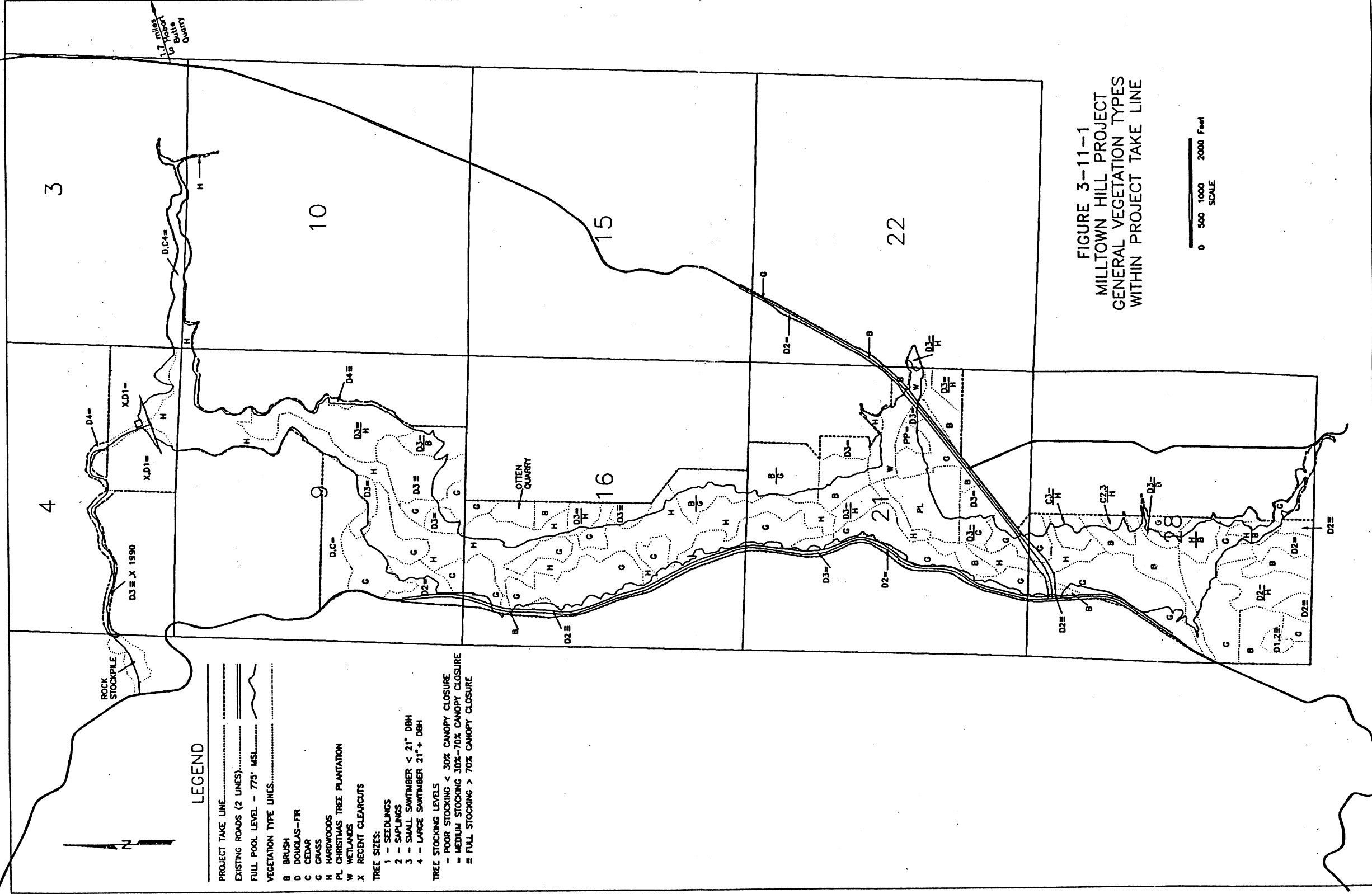
3.1.11.1.2 Riparian and Wetlands

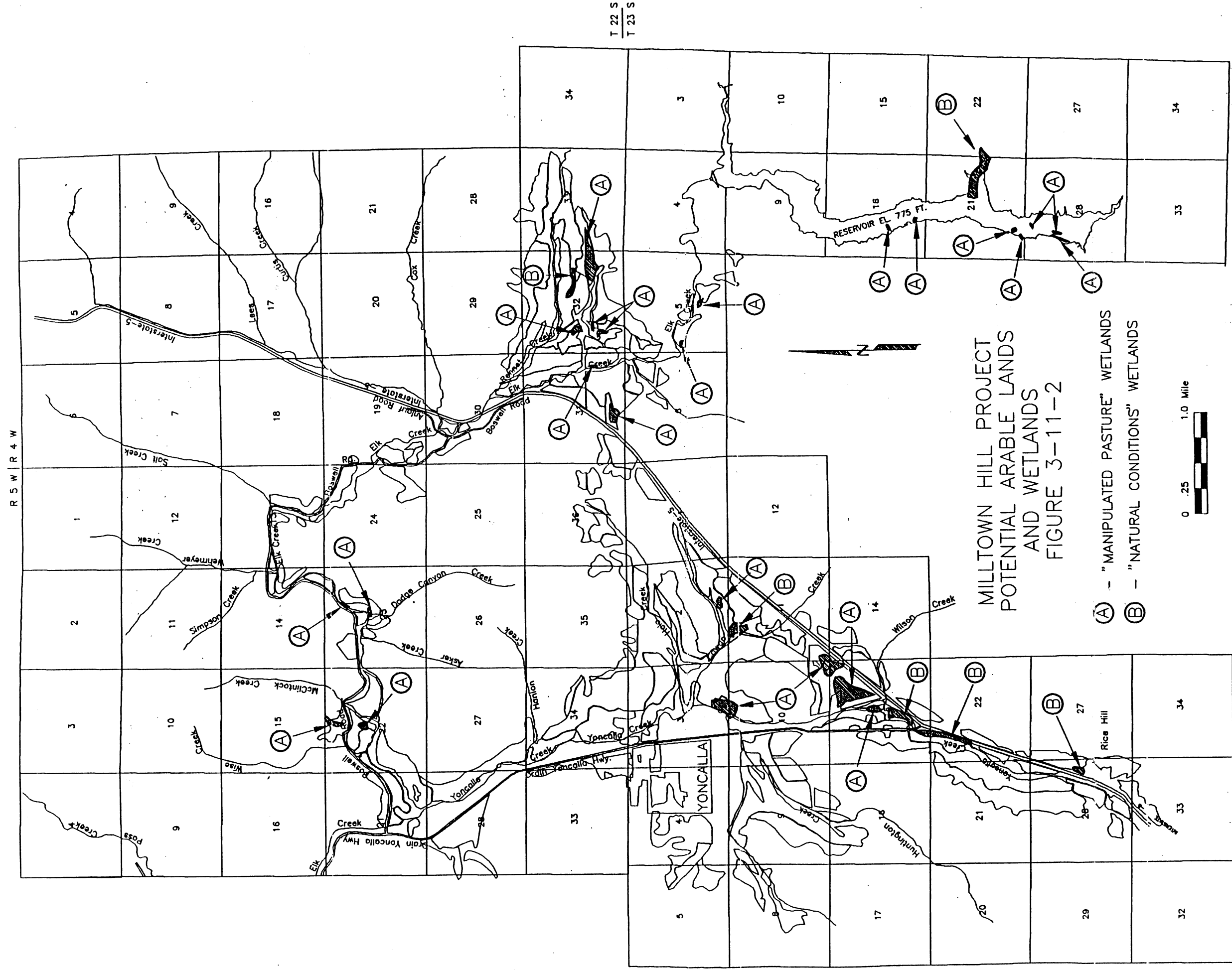
Elk Creek supports a narrow riparian zone usually on both sides of the stream channel. Dominant species include black cottonwood, red alder, white alder, Oregon ash and various willow species. Understory vegetation varies from dense thickets to openings of low herbaceous species. The riparian habitat within the reservoir pool area and immediately downstream is in fairly good condition. Further downstream, adjacent to the agricultural area, grazing, homesite development, firewood cutting, and other human disturbances have degraded riparian habitat (Fish and Wildlife Service, 1990).

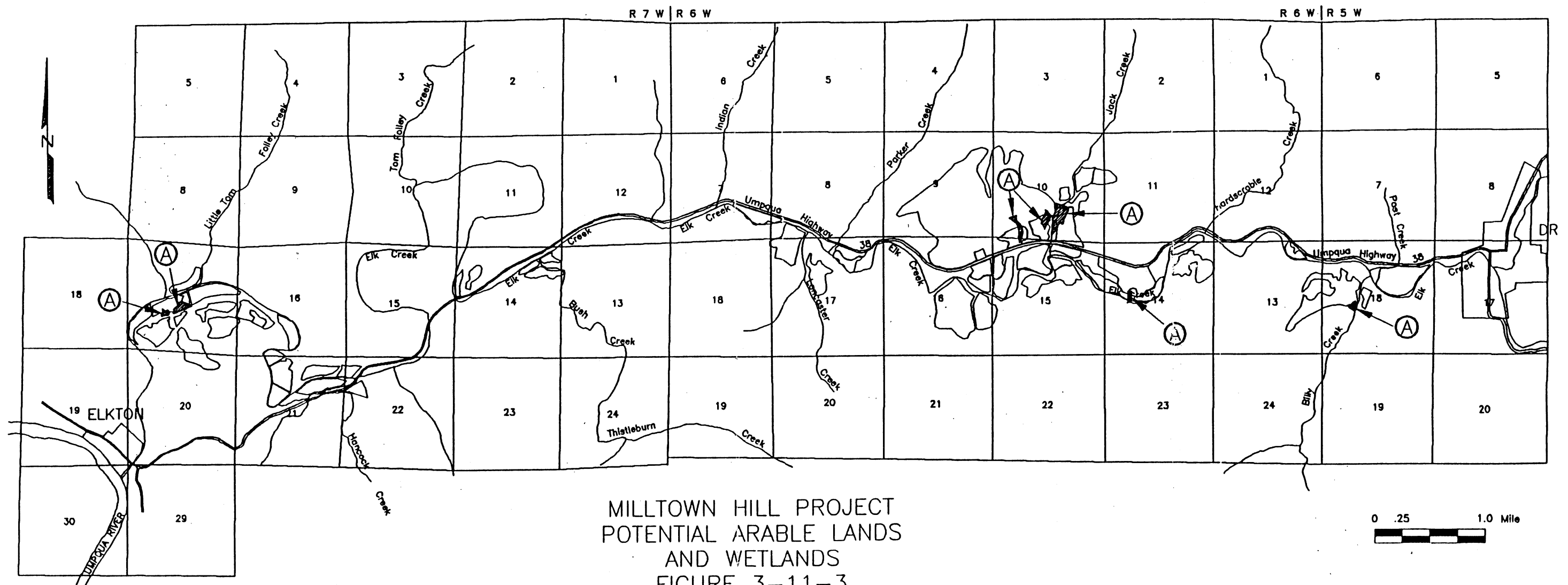
Most of the agricultural areas have been subjected to some drainage. Grazing or haying activities have altered much of the wetland characteristics. Flat areas in the valley bottoms with saturated hydric soils have some Juncus, Carex, and course grasses tolerant to flooding. The Soil Conservation Service (SCS) has mapped soils in the project area as part of its broader responsibility for identifying agricultural wetlands. Preliminary mapping has tentatively identified about 1,765 acres of hydric soils in the areas proposed for irrigation upstream of Drain, exclusive of the reservoir pool area.

The USFWS National Wetlands Inventory show wetlands areas primarily along riparian corridors of Elk Creek and Yoncalla Creek. The Bureau of Reclamation and FWS identified 225 acres of wetlands in the agricultural service areas where seasonally saturated conditions, hydric soils, and emergent hydrophytic vegetation exist (Bureau of Reclamation, 1991). Further studies by Douglas County in March 1991 identified approximately 203 total acres with wetland hydrology, hydric soils, and emergent aquatic vegetation closely corresponding to the earlier wetland acreage. Of the 203 wetlands acres, 72 are found in Scott's Valley, 102 are in Yoncalla Valley and 28 are in the lower reach of Elk Creek, west of Drain (Figures 3-11-2 and 3-11-3). An additional 31 acres of hydrophytic vegetation and seasonally saturated conditions were identified in the reservoir area. Project wetlands were categorized into "Natural Condition" wetlands and "Manipulated Pasture" wetlands and identified as follows:

TOWNSHIP 23 SOUTH, RANGE 4 WEST







MILLTOWN HILL PROJECT
POTENTIAL ARABLE LANDS
AND WETLANDS
FIGURE 3-11-3

- Ⓐ - "MANIPULATED PASTURE" WETLANDS
- Ⓑ - "NATURAL CONDITIONS" WETLANDS

"Natural Condition" wetlands exemplify a classical type of wetlands. Hydrophytic vegetation is highly diverse in size and species type, the water regime is often shallowly ponded; diversity of wildlife species and habitat is apparent. These wetlands are often flood plains found next to streams.

"Manipulated Pasture" wetlands exemplify emergent aquatic vegetation with low diversity, sporadic distribution, less apparent hydrology, and have little or no wildlife species or habitat value. They are located in pasturelands where the ground has often been leveled, having lowered water tables, unable to support a total cover of wetland plant species. Most of the areas identified (60%) are manipulated pasture wetlands.

3.1.11.2 Impacts to Vegetation

3.1.11.2.1 Construction

The reservoir would inundate 681 acres within the interior valley, mixed-evergreen, and mixed-conifer vegetation zones at a pool elevation of 775 feet msl. The Habitat Evaluation Procedure (HEP) determined the wildlife cover types that would be lost are about 173 acres of riparian, 260 acres grass/pasture, 238 acres of shrub/timber, and 9 acres of stream/open water. About 681 acres of aquatic habitat would be created in the reservoir. On the remaining 100 acres in the takeline area, an additional 50 acres would be lost or disturbed by development of the Otten Quarry, construction of recreation areas, and road relocations. This includes about 15 acres of grass/pasture, 30 acres of shrub/timber, and 5 acres of riparian.

Field investigations estimated that out of a total 203 acres of wetlands, about 28 acres of wetlands are located in the agricultural areas that could be served with project water. Approximately 31 acres of wetlands vegetation would be lost due to reservoir inundation. About 60% of the wetlands are manipulated pasture wetlands.

The installation of the pipeline system would require excavation in existing road rights-of-way. Loss of vegetation would be minimal because these areas are either cleaned or sprayed periodically to maintain water drainage. Pipeline stream crossings (See: Section 3.1.9, Water Quality) would be trenched near the bridge crossings. Minimal disturbance of vegetation is anticipated.

The placement of subsurface drainage pipe would temporarily disrupt the vegetative cover on up to 15.6 acres of existing pasture land. The trench would be filled and then seeded with

suitable grass species.

3.1.11.2.2 Operation

Project operation generally would not affect vegetation in the reservoir pool. The annual drawdown could cause a dewatering of small slough areas along the margins of the reservoir which could cause a loss of a small amount of riparian vegetation seasonally and a drying-up of wetland areas. Operation of the improved irrigation systems, with new subsurface drainage systems would produce increased crop vigor and yield, and also allow crop diversification.

3.1.11.3 Mitigation of Impacts to Vegetation

Those areas temporarily disturbed by construction activities would be recontoured and revegetated after construction to hasten rehabilitation. Native vegetation would be used to the extent possible. The loss of 173 acres of riparian vegetation by reservoir inundation would be mitigated by habitat enhancement on portions of Elk Creek downstream of the dam site. Enhancement would include plantings and/or fencing in areas where vegetation has been affected by grazing, brush clearing, and other human activities. The loss of wetlands in the reservoir area (approximately 31 acres), would be mitigated by development of wetlands in the upper end of the reservoir. This would be done by planting shallow marsh plants such as horsetails, cottails, spikerush, bur-reed, skunk cabbage, toad rush, tufted hair grass, and manna grass. There would be no significant loss of wetland values in the project area. The values of created wetlands at the upper end of the reservoir would be higher than the existing values of "manipulated pasture" wetlands that occur in the reservoir site. (See: Section 3.1.14, Wildlife Resources).

Wetlands would not be lost in the service area. The wetlands that have been identified would be protected from farming operations by the County. This would be enforced by informing the land-owners of the areas to be protected as the water is subscribed. No project drainage or change in agricultural practices would occur to negatively affect jurisdictional wetlands at the time the water service contract is negotiated. This would be enforced by County with a wetland protective clause in the water service contract between the County and individual water user.

Impacts that result from pipeline stream crossings would be mitigated by construction during low or no flow months. Bank material would be removed and replaced, the area re-seeded, and erosion protection applied.

The purchase of a 3-acre log pond that was discussed in the

DEIS for the project would not be part of the project as planned. A decision to remove the log pond from the project was made after further investigation by Douglas County determined that water quality in the log pond was not as anticipated, based on prior conversations, and that a considerable clean-up liability may be incurred if the pond was part of the project. This decision to remove the log pond from the project does not deter Douglas County's desire to use the log pond for development of a recreational and wildlife facility, but it is in Douglas County's best interest to pursue it separately from the Milltown Hill Project. Also, there may be additional funding sources available (for clean-up) if the log pond is not part of the project.

3.1.12 Agriculture

3.1.12.1 Existing Agricultural Conditions

Douglas County farms can be characterized as livestock farms and ranches, with a few general crop, orchard, and vegetable farms. A fulltime farm unit generally includes some non-irrigated pasture as well as irrigated pasture and hay to support a livestock operation. This is reflected in the fact that about 80 percent of total sales of agricultural products in Douglas County in 1987 was from livestock sales. Although some small grains are grown, they are generally a minor enterprise on farms in the subbasin (Myers, 1992).

The agricultural lands in the reservoir pool area and downstream of the dam are pasture areas for sheep and other livestock or hay crops that are typically located in the bottoms along the stream course. Land within the project that is suitable for irrigation is used almost exclusively as grass pasture, hay, or combination pasture-hay. A very minor acreage is in wine vineyards, orchards or Christmas tree farms. A significant acreage of the alluvial lands have been improved by clearing of timber and underbrush with subsequent seeding to grass. Outlying slopes are generally unimproved or native range with scattered brush and timber. There are about 115 acres of prime farmlands in the reservoir area (See: Section 3.1.3, Soil and Land Classification). The composition of land use in the Elk Creek subbasin is very similar to that in the remainder of the County. Table 3-12-1 presents the land use summary for the Elk Creek subbasin.

Table 3-12-1. Summary of Land Use in Elk Creek Subbasin.

<u>Land Use</u>	<u>Acres</u>	<u>Percent</u>
Forest land	106,400	62
Farm/forest	38,720	22
Agriculture	24,640	14
All others (urban, etc.)	3,840	2
Total	173,600	100

 Lands in the Farm/forest classification have some of the characteristics of both agricultural and forest lands.

Source: Myers, 1992.

There are about 7,377 acres of arable lands in the project service area based on criteria developed by the Bureau of Reclamation (Myers, 1992). Presently, about 1,533 acres are irrigated, but irrigation flows are frequently curtailed during summer months due to lack of water. About 897 acres of the 1,533 acres require supplemental supplies (Myers, 1992).

3.1.12.2 Impacts to Agriculture

3.1.12.2.1 Construction

Approximately 251 acres of existing farmland would be inundated by the reservoir. Another 100 acres would be needed for the take-line area above the reservoir 775 foot line to provide for flood levels at the 780 elevation, to construct new roads and to provide for recreation facilities. About, 115 acres of prime farmlands would be lost in the reservoir pool area (Figure 3-3-4). The pipeline would be constructed in new and existing road rights-of-way. The pipeline to water users would be both buried and movable surface pipe.

3.1.12.2.2 Operation

The project would allow a full irrigation supply for 2,601 acres by the pipeline distribution system and 1,163 acres by pumping directly from lower Elk Creek. In addition, those lands not now receiving sufficient water (approximately 897 acres) would receive a supplemental supply (Myers, 1992). This would result in a total service to 4,661 acres (Douglas County Water Resources Survey, 1990).

The operation of the project would enhance production to 4,661 acres of arable land in the service area between river mile 39.4

and river mile 0 at Elkton.

Irrigation in the service area would provide a change from present dry pasture, hay production to irrigated clover and alfalfa production. This would allow for substantial increase in livestock carrying capacity, resulting in increased farm income. Irrigation could also permit the production of row crops and specialty crops, such as sugar beets, corn, strawberries, raspberries, blackberries, boysenberries, and wine grapes.

3.1.12.3 Mitigation of Impacts to Agriculture

The loss of 260 acres of agricultural lands by reservoir inundation and the construction of project facilities would be offset by providing increased irrigation water to 4,661 acres of agricultural lands in the service areas.

3.1.13 Timber Resources

3.1.13.1 Existing Timber Resources

There are approximately 364 acres of commercial forest land within the 1,192-acre project take line. The ownership is as follows:

Private	140 acres
County	134 acres
BLM	<u>90</u> acres
Total	364 acres

Size class distribution of timber within the project take-line is shown below:

Seedlings	30 acres
Saplings	90 acres
Sawtimber	<u>244</u> acres
Total	364 acres

Estimated volume of timber on the 244 acres of sawtimber is 4.5 million board feet. The estimated 1991 stumpage value is \$1,080,000.

3.1.13.2 Impacts to Timber Resources

3.1.13.2.1 Construction

Approximately 160 acres of commercial forest lands would be inundated by the reservoir. An additional 20 acres would be cut to provide for a new access road to the base of the dam and relocation of County Roads #7 and #8. Not all the timber within the reservoir would be cut and removed. Approximately 90 acres of timber near the dam and in Walker Creek arm would be left standing, to provide cover for fish and nesting places for waterfowl, eagles, and osprey. An additional 60 acres in the south end of the reservoir and in the wildlife area south of the reservoir would be preserved to provide habitat for wildlife. Construction of the project would result in an estimated timber revenue loss of \$2,620,800 (1991 dollars) over an 80-year rotation period.

3.1.13.2.2 Operation

There would not be an additional loss of timber because of project operation. Operation of the reservoir, with recreational developments, may affect BLM's timber harvesting policy on its lands adjacent to and in view from the reservoir. Timber harvesting could be prohibited or curtailed on these lands.

The Oregon Department of Forestry provided information that the loss of 364 acres of commercial forest land within the project take-line could result in the loss of 2 direct, indirect and induced jobs at the timbershed level and 3.8 total jobs statewide.

3.1.13.3 Mitigation of Impacts to Timber Resources

The loss of 364 acres of commercial forest land per se to the project would not be mitigated. Of this total, 160 acres would be flooded and 20 acres would be removed for road construction and reconstruction. The remaining 184 acres would not be cut, but would be used as scenic buffers near the edges of the reservoir. Douglas County would attempt to locate County owned land that could undergo improvement for timber production to mitigate this impact.

The loss of timber-related jobs would be offset by short-term jobs during construction and operation of the project. Jobs resulting from stabilization or slight economic growth in the areas of Rice Hill, Yoncalla, and Drain would likely offset the loss of jobs.

3.1.14 Wildlife Resources

3.1.14.1 Existing Wildlife Conditions

The subbasin between Elkton and the proposed reservoir supports vertebrate animal species typical of lower elevations of the biogeographical regions in western Oregon. The natural habitat has been greatly altered by land use practices. Specialized habitats such as old growth and mature forests, snags, open water wetlands, and undistributed riparian areas are uncommon or absent. However many wildlife species are associated with the interspersed of several plant communities and the associated edge effect, a high degree of foliage height diversity, and the riparian community which transects the area (Fish and Wildlife Service, 1990).

Big game species that frequent the subbasin include black-tailed deer, Roosevelt elk, mountain lion, and black bear. Of these, black-tailed deer are the most widespread and numerous. Since this area is usually below the snow-line, the area supports year-long populations averaging about 30 deer per square mile. The riparian zone is especially important habitat for black-tail deer. Other species of big game use the project area infrequently because of the extent of human habitation in the area (Fish and Wildlife Service, 1990).

Upland game species include ring-necked pheasant, valley quail, mountain quail, blue grouse, ruffed grouse, mourning dove, band-tailed pigeon, western gray squirrel, and brush rabbit. Wild turkeys have been introduced throughout the area by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The population has been steadily increasing (Fish and Wildlife Service, 1990).

Nesting waterfowl numbers are low because of the lack of open water and permanent wetland areas with suitable habitat. A few pairs of mallards, wood ducks, and teal species are probably associated with Elk Creek in the proposed reservoir pool area. Mallards, wood ducks and Canada geese nest at farm ponds or log ponds scattered throughout the agricultural areas proposed for irrigation. A variety of waterfowl and shorebirds use the agricultural wetlands for feeding and resting during migration and for a wintering ground, especially if major storms move birds inland. In addition to the above species, teal, pintail, gadwall, coot, widgeon, mergansers, grebes, goldeneye, and scaup would also use the open water and wetland habitats. Wading and shorebirds would include great blue heron, killdeer, sandpipers, snipe, bittern, and rails (Fish and Wildlife Service, 1990).

Furbearers include beaver, skunk, otter, mink, muskrat, raccoon, bobcat, coyote, and gray and red fox. The subbasin supports a variety of nongame wildlife such as numerous small mammals, raptors, passerine birds, reptiles, and amphibians. The

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has an active Nongame Wildlife Program that involves population and habitat inventory and analysis and public environmental education. Species of high interest to the Nongame Wildlife Program that occur in the project area include the osprey, bald eagle, and western pond turtle (Fish and Wildlife Service, 1990).

A limited amount of hunting of black-tailed deer, waterfowl, and upland game occurs throughout the subbasin. The opportunity is limited because of the private lands and residences where hunting is restricted or inconsistent with existing land use. It is estimated that about 100 hunter days occur annually (Fish and Wildlife Service, 1990).

The Fish and Wildlife Service's Habitat Evaluation Procedure (HEP) was used to assess the value of wildlife habitat in the project area (Fish and Wildlife Service, 1990). Because of the lack of controversial issues and no extremely sensitive wildlife resources, a modified HEP process was used. The HEP analysis defines existing conditions and anticipated future without project conditions, expressed in habitat units, for evaluation species specifically chosen for the area. Habitat units are derived from acres of usable cover types and the quality of the habitat as expressed by a habitat suitability index (HSI). A similar analysis is then applied to the anticipated conditions at selected years (target years) during the development and operation of a proposed project. The difference between the two analyses, as expressed in average annual habitat units (AAHU), defines the impacts of the project. Finally, an additional analysis is completed to determine the amount of mitigation that would compensate or offset the impacts over the life of the project.

Seven evaluation species were selected for the HEP study (Table 3-14-1). These evaluation species represent a mix of economically important, public interest, or ecologically important species and represent four cover types associated with the project area. The species were chosen to represent both the existing conditions, the proposed project conditions, and the future without the project ecological conditions. Hence, wildlife species are included that would be associated with the proposed reservoir.

The HSI reflects the quality of an evaluation species' habitat. An HSI of 0.0 indicates no habitat value and an HSI of 1.0 indicates ideal habitat value. As summarized in Table 3-14-2, the HEP study concluded that HSI values for the evaluation species in the existing environment ranged from 0.36 for downy woodpecker to 0.87 for western pond turtle.

Table 3-14-1. Species and Cover Type Association and Acreages for Baseline HEP Conditions, Milltown Hill Reservoir.

Species	Riparian	Grass/ pasture	Shrub/ timber	Stream/ reservoir	Total acreage
Downy woodpecker	188		782		970
Western meadowlark		407			407
Yellow warbler	188				188
Wild turkey	188	407	782		1,377
Black-tailed deer	188	407	782		1,377
Osprey				0	0
Western pond turtle				9	9

Source: Fish and Wildlife Service, 1990.

Table 3-14-2 includes the AAHU for the HEP study evaluation species for baseline conditions within the project area. The AAHU's reflect both the quality and quantity of available habitat. The black-tailed deer, which uses all cover types, also had a relatively high HSI value and accounts for the most AAHU's. On the other hand, the western pond turtle, which also had a high HSI value, had the lowest AAHU's due to a small amount of habitat under present conditions. AAHU's for the other species showed the same relationship between habitat quality and quantity (Fish and Wildlife Service, 1990).

Table 3-14-2. Acres of available habitat, baseline conditions (HSI's and habitat units (HU's) and AAHU's¹).

Evaluation species	Acres of habitat	HSI	HU's	AAHU's
Downy woodpecker	970	0.36	349	349
Western meadowlark	407	0.62	252	252
Yellow warbler	188	0.58	109	109
Wild turkey	1,377	0.48	661	589
Black-tailed deer	1,377	0.80	1,102	1,005
Osprey	0	0.47	0	0
Western pond turtle	9	0.87	8	8

¹ AAHU's represent the average annual habitat units over the life of the project (100 years). Where changes in future without the project conditions occur, the AAHU's are different from the HU's.

Source: Fish and Wildlife Service, 1990.

3.1.14.2 Impacts to Wildlife Habitat

3.1.14.2.1 Construction

The reservoir would inundate 681 acres at normal full pool. The HEP analysis determined the wildlife cover types that would be lost are about 173 acres of riparian, 260 acres grass/pasture, 238

acres of shrub/timber, and 9 acres of stream/open water. About 681 acres of aquatic habitat would be created in the reservoir. On the remaining 706 acres in the take-line, an additional 50 acres would be lost or disturbed by development of the quarry, recreation areas, and road relocation. This includes about 15 acres of grass/pasture, 30 acres of shrub/timber, and 5 acres of riparian. The pipeline would be buried in existing road rights-of-way and minimal habitat would be affected.

Field investigations by Bureau of Reclamation, the USFWS, and County estimated that out of a total of 225 acres of wetlands, about 28 acres were in areas where conversion to agricultural fields could occur due to close proximity within the potentially arable land base. This action would not be permitted by the County. Another 31 acres of wetlands in the reservoir pool area would be inundated.

3.1.14.2.2 Operation

Project operation would have the most pronounced and immediate effects on small animals, such as burrowing rodents, reptiles, and amphibians with limited territories. Individuals of those species would be killed by reservoir inundation. Wide ranging species, such as predators and big game species, would lose a portion of their foraging and breeding habitat, resulting in lowered overall carrying capacity from both loss of habitat and reduced prey base. The project would have a net positive effect on those species associated with open-water habitats such as western pond turtle, beaver, aquatic garter snake, muskrat, and various bat species as well as osprey (Fish and Wildlife Service, 1990).

Impacts would occur to breeding, wintering, and migrating birds associated with forests, woodlands, shrublands, and riparian zones. Habitat would be permanently lost for such species as woodpeckers, warblers, western meadowlark, upland gamebirds, and raptors.

The open water of the reservoir would create 681 acres of habitat for migratory waterfowl. Waterfowl species would nest in dense cover that would become established adjacent to the pool, especially at the upper end of the reservoir. Osprey, bald eagles, and other fish-eating birds would be expected to forage on the increased fish populations. Several pairs of osprey and bald eagles could establish nest territories in the area. The flooded timber areas in Walker Creek arm would also produce increased forage, nesting, and roosting areas for swallows, woodpeckers, wood ducks, kingfishers, and cormorants. Herons, gulls, numerous species of diving ducks, terns, grebes, and shorebirds would use the reservoir and adjacent habitats (marshes, mudflats, and shorelines) that would be created with the project (Fish and Wildlife Service, 1990).

All terrestrial wildlife use of the reservoir inundation areas and the road relocation areas would be lost, while the quarry would be reclaimed and provide some wildlife use. The recreation sites would continue to provide wildlife use, but at reduced acreages and values.

The HEP demonstrated impacts to wildlife in terms of changes to the AAHU's. These changes are determined by comparing future without-the-project conditions against future with-the-project. The reduction of AAHU's are the product of the reduction of acres of terrestrial vegetation cover-types and a partial degradation of certain habitat values, as expressed in habitat suitability indices (HSI). The HEP study also recognized the gained habitat values that would be associated with the upper reservoir's aquatic environment as indicated by increases in AAHU's for osprey and western pond turtle. Changes in AAHU's with the project for each of the evaluation species are summarized in Table 3-14-3 (Fish and Wildlife Service, 1990).

Table 3-14-3. Net Changes in Average Annual Habitat Units (AAHU's) for the Milltown Hill Project.

Species	AAHU's Without Project	AAHU's With Project	Net Change
Downy Woodpecker	349	190	-159
Western meadowlark	252	90	-162
Yellow warbler	109	10	-99
Wild turkey	584	290	-294
Black-tailed deer	1,005	510	-495
Osprey	0	214	+214
Western pond turtle	8	64	+56

Changes assume both direct losses with the reservoir and indirect losses with road relocation, borrow sites, and recreation developments. Also assumes timber retention in portions of the reservoir and wetlands development at the upper end of the reservoir.

Source: Fish and Wildlife Service, 1990.

3.1.14.3 Mitigation of Impacts to Wildlife

Those areas temporarily disturbed by construction activities would be recontoured and revegetated after construction to hasten rehabilitation of the habitat. Native vegetation would be used to the extent possible (Fish and Wildlife Service, 1990).

The loss of 173 acres of riparian vegetation by reservoir inundation, would be mitigated by habitat enhancement on portions of Elk Creek downstream of the project site. Restoration could include plantings and/or fencing in areas where vegetation has been impacted by grazing, brush clearing, and other human activities. The County would develop a riparian program to identify problem

areas, possible remediation efforts, and funding sources with landowners (Fish and Wildlife Service, 1990).

The 28 acres of wetlands in the agricultural area below the damsite would not be affected. The loss of 31 acres in the reservoir area would be mitigated by development of wetlands in the south end of the reservoir. The development of 10 to 15 ponds south of the causeway in this area of the reservoir would result in about 23 acres of wetlands (Figure 2-6). These areas would be contoured and planted with native plants to produce high quality wetlands (also, See: Section 3.1.11, Vegetation). The presence of the island would further increase shoreline areas where wetland vegetation would be planted (Fish and Wildlife Service, 1990).

The timber (about 90 acres) in the north part of the reservoir and in the Walker Creek arm of the reservoir would be left uncut, except for trees which could be dangerous to recreationists, to provide for wildlife use. This would provide an area where osprey platforms and duck boxes would be built.

The loss of game species habitat values (495 AAHU's for black-tailed deer and 294 AAHU's for wild turkey), would be mitigated by securing 767 acres of Columbian white-tailed deer habitat off-site and within the core area for deer. Douglas County would be responsible for initiating landowner incentives, local planning and zoning ordinances, and the active involvement of private organizations and public agencies to secure habitat.

The upstream end of the reservoir would be developed specifically as a wildlife habitat area (Figure 2-5). It would provide both game and nongame mitigation values. About 200 acres would be acquired for habitat improvements and about 120 acres of pool would be maintained for high quality wildlife habitat. This area would support hunting (bird and waterfowl) and other wildlife-oriented recreation. It is anticipated that there would be about 500 hunter-days and 6,500 visitor days (bird watching, photography, and nature hikes) in the wildlife project area each year. Habitat developments and restrictions in the wildlife area include the following:

- No livestock would be allowed.
- Planting of mast producing plants along field edges and fence rows would serve as buffers, escape cover, and forage.
- Snag development and placement of nest boxes and platforms in about 50 acres of timbered areas.
- Development of about 23 acres of permanent, shallow-water ponds and wetland areas at the upper end of the reservoir.

- Creation of submerged piles of woody debris of in-water structural diversity in the mid-pool area.

The HEP analysis demonstrated that the onsite mitigation would provide overall net benefits for two of the evaluation species, the osprey and western pond turtle (Table 3-14-4). The Fish and Wildlife Service and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife agreed that this mitigation is adequate to compensate for losses to nongame species. However, additional mitigation measures would be required for game species (black-tailed deer and wild turkey) (Fish and Wildlife Service, 1990).

Table 3-14-4. Net Results of the Onsite Mitigation Actions.

<u>Species</u>	<u>Net change AAHU's with the project</u>	<u>Net AAHU's with mitigation</u>	<u>Difference</u>
Downy woodpecker	-159	+44	-115
Western meadowlark	-162	+18	-144
Yellow warbler	-99	0	-99
Wild turkey	-294	+92	-202
Black-tailed deer	-495	+86	-409
Osprey	+214	+33	+247
Pond turtle	+56	0	+56

Source: Fish and Wildlife Service, 1990.

Onsite mitigation measures for black-tailed deer and wild turkey are limited because existing habitat quality is already high, and the limiting factor of human disturbance which would not be easily improved with management. The interagency HEP team concurred that game species losses could be mitigated off-site by securing habitat for the endangered Columbian white-tailed deer (See: Section 3.1.16, Threatened and Endangered Species). Although this would be out-of-kind mitigation, the HEP team believed that actions which would secure habitat for the white-tailed deer would also provide habitat values for black-tailed deer and wild turkey (Fish and Wildlife Service, 1990).

Optimal habitat for Columbian white-tailed deer is oak and riparian woodland with a well-developed understory adjacent to grassland. This habitat supports a diversity of nongame wildlife in addition to black-tailed deer and wild turkey. Securing habitat is the only requirement that remains to be met for delisting the species. Presently, about 2,000 acres of secured habitat exist within Federal, County and State lands. The recovery plan identifies a need for 5,500 acres of secured habitat. The additional 3,500 acres could be secured through lease agreements, easements, zone ordinances, and covenants on deeds developed with landowners or through outright acquisition (Fish and Wildlife Service, 1990).

The HEP team determined that securing 767 acres of Columbian white-tailed deer habitat would compensate for the habitat losses of black-tailed deer and turkey.

3.1.15 Fisheries Resources

3.1.15.1 Existing Fisheries Resources

Elk Creek meanders most of its 45 mile length and has a relatively low gradient (less than one percent). Substrate is largely bedrock with little gravel accumulation. It is characterized by a large number of pools and runs with only a few riffles (estimated pool to riffle ratio of 9 to 1). In addition, woody debris and other instream structures are notably absent from the creek except in the uppermost 6 miles. Riparian vegetation is generally present and typically provides excellent shading during summer, especially above Drain (river mile 24). Downstream from Drain, the channel widens and shading is reduced to only a portion of the stream channel (Craven, 1989).

The lack of gravels, riffles, and other instream structures in Elk Creek limits habitat diversity for the production of fish and other aquatic organisms. Spawning and rearing habitat for anadromous and resident fish is sparse, especially during low flows. Late summer flows in Elk Creek are generally less than 5 cfs, and frequently approach 0 cfs, whereas average winter and spring flows are about 800-1,000 cfs at the mouth. The low summer flows and warm climate combine to create warm water temperatures that frequently exceed 75 °F downstream from Drain (Craven, 1989).

The general lack of gravels, other instream structures, and low summer flows indicate that production of invertebrates in the main stem of Elk Creek is probably very low. Most stream productivity is assumed to be from algae and terrestrial invertebrates, with some invertebrate production associated with leaf fall and other detrital input.

Bank erosion is evident (especially between river mile 27 to 35) with steep, high cut banks and mud/silt substrate that contribute to turbidity and sedimentation. During high flow, the water has a very high sediment load. The subbasin has a significant amount of clay and colloidal material. Land and forest management practices in the watershed strongly influence sedimentation and turbidity.

In addition to poor habitat conditions, there is one small irrigation dam (Cunningham Dam) across Elk Creek at river mile 17.5 that could be affecting anadromous fish use of the system. The structure has no fish facilities and there is no record of passage information. It is likely that fish passage could be delayed or

blocked at the dam, especially during low flow periods. Walker Creek, a tributary located upstream of the proposed damsite, has a near vertical waterfall near the mouth that is a natural barrier to upstream passage for fish (Craven, 1989).

Anadromous fish reported to use Elk Creek and its tributaries include fall chinook salmon, coho salmon, winter steelhead trout and sea-run cutthroat trout (Table 3-15-1). The most recent estimates of run size for these species are 15 fall chinook, 500 coho, and 500 winter steelhead (Craven, 1990). No estimates for sea-run cutthroat are available. Of these totals, more than 90 percent of the total anadromous fish production occurs in the tributaries of Elk Creek, with only 5 percent occurring in the uppermost reaches of the mainstem. The exception to this is fall chinook, which occurs only in the lower 10 miles of the mainstem. Major tributaries used by anadromous fish include Big Tom Folly, Brush, Pass, and Yoncalla Creeks. In addition to anadromous fish, other fish that have been found in Elk Creek include rainbow trout, reticulate sculpin, Umpqua chub, redbside shiner, lamprey, and speckled dace (Table 3-15-1).

Table 3-15-1. Fish Species Reported in Elk Creek.

Reticulate sculpin (<u>Cottus perplexus</u>)	Fall Chinook (<u>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</u>)
Coho (<u>Oncorhynchus kisutch</u>)	Large scale sucker (<u>Catostomus macrocheilus</u>)
Redshine shiner (<u>Richardsonius occulus</u>)	Threespine stickleback (<u>Gasterosteus aculeatus</u>)
Rainbow trout (<u>Oncorhynchus mykiss</u>)	Yellow bullhead (<u>Ictalurus natalis</u>)
Cutthroat trout (<u>Oncorhynchus clarkii</u>)	Smallmouth bass (<u>Micropterus dolomieu</u>)
Umpqua chub (<u>Oregonichthys kalawetseti</u>)	Speckled dace (<u>Rhinichthys occulus</u>)
Winter Steelhead (<u>Oncorhynchus gairdneri</u>)	Lamprey (<u>Lampetra</u> spp.)

Source: Craven, 1989; Doug Markle, pers. comm., Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon State University.

Recreational use of the fishery resources of Elk Creek is limited because salmon and steelhead fishing is not permitted, and only local use is made of trout fishing opportunities in the mainstem and some of the tributaries. A total of about 2,000 angler-days presently occur in the subbasin, mostly for rainbow trout (Craven, 1989).

3.1.15.2 Impacts to Fisheries Resources and Habitat

3.1.15.2.1 Construction

The dam would be located at river mile 39.4 on Elk Creek and would inundate about 4 1/2 miles of the main-stem and 2 miles of tributaries. Tributaries upstream of the proposed dam include Walker, Lane, and Shingle Mill Creeks, and several small, seasonal streams. Fish passage facilities are not planned for the dam;

thus, anadromous fish use of areas upstream of the dam would be lost. Based on surveys conducted in the area of the proposed reservoir and the analysis of fishery benefits and impacts, it is estimated that the production of about 50 coho and 50 winter steelhead would be lost annually. Resident fish are expected to continue to exist in the new reservoir.

Resident game and non-game species as well as anadromous species could be affected during construction in the reservoir pool area and downstream. Project activities that could adversely affect fisheries resources would be those activities that would provide barriers to movement or affect water quality, such as the coffer dams and diversion at the damsite, road crossing on Elk Creek, and erosion of sediment or release of contaminants into Elk Creek. Impacts due to these activities are expected to be minor and short-term.

The pipeline to the service area would cross Elk Creek and various tributaries. There would be only minor, short-term impacts on fisheries because construction would occur during low or no flow periods (See: Section 3.1.9, Water Quality).

Water quality impacts, such as increased sedimentation and turbidity from construction in or near the stream would occur. These activities are not expected to significantly affect fisheries resources because of the anticipated short-term nature of the work which would be conducted during summer low flow months.

3.1.15.2.2 Operation

The reservoir would provide good habitat conditions for rainbow trout and/or warm water sport fish. Management by the ODFW would probably emphasize warm water species. Retention of 90 acres of flooded timber in the lower reservoir and in the upper end of the reservoir above the relocated county road would provide good cover and nesting conditions for largemouth bass, bluegill, and bullhead catfish. The development of habitat features (i.e., brush piles, snags, and other large woody debris) and plantings of emergent vegetation in the upper end of the reservoir would also improve habitat for warm water fish. Shoreline spawners, such as warm water fish, could be adversely affected by reservoir pool drawdowns during irrigation season.

Coastal cutthroat trout are native to Elk Creek and there is a good possibility that they will survive in the reservoir and continue to spawn in Elk Creek above the reservoir and in some of the tributaries (Lane, Shingle Mill, and Walker Creeks).

The reservoir trout fishery could be supplemented by plantings of rainbow trout and bass. This is done at nearby Cottage Grove Lake, a Corps of Engineers reservoir on the Coast Fork of the

Willamette River. The bass fishery at the lake is very popular and is managed as a catch-and-release trophy fishery by ODFW. This management reduces the potential for mercury accumulation in humans from eating mature fish which may contain concentrated levels of mercury (Fish and Wildlife Service, 1990).

Due to leaching of mercury ores in the watershed, Cottage Grove Lake has higher than acceptable concentrations of mercury. Only catchable-size rainbow trout are planted at Cottage Grove because of a concern for mercury concentrations in the fish. A similar concern was expressed for the proposed project because of an abandoned mercury mine near Lane Creek. Mercury contamination has been noted in fish from Cottage Grove Lake since 1973. Mercury levels in cutthroat trout in 1975 were 0.26 ppm. Unpublished Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) data show that brown bullhead and largemouth bass contained mercury levels in edible portions of flesh of 1.0 ppm and 0.84 ppm, respectively. Therefore, fishermen were warned not to eat more than 1 pound of fish out of the lake each week. DEQ has continued to monitor mercury levels in Cottage Grove Lake; levels appear to be stable and are not considered a health hazard to humans involved in swimming, water skiing, or other water contact activities (Fish and Wildlife Service, 1990).

Because of the concern that similar problems could occur in the Elk Creek drainage, fish from Elk Creek in the proposed reservoir area were sampled for mercury contamination. Mercury concentrations of 16 ppb and 3 ppb were found in two of the three samples taken. EPA recommends that mercury concentrations not exceed 146 ppb for the protection of human health from the toxic properties of mercury through water and contaminated aquatic organisms. While the data from Elk Creek represents very limited sampling, the values indicate that mercury levels in fish in the new reservoir could be higher than background levels found in most other western Oregon waters, but that the levels would probably not equal or exceed those found at Cottage Grove Lake (Fish and Wildlife Service, 1990).

Sport fishing at Cottage Grove Lake accounted for about 52,800 angler-days in 1985 for the 1,137-acre pool. The intensity of fishing use at the proposed project is expected to be less because there would not be the same level of recreational facility development and the reservoir would have a summer drawdown period when the surface area would be decreasing. Operational studies for the project show an average pool elevation of 736 feet and a surface area of 256 acres during September. Also, management actions would restrict boating access to certain areas of the reservoir. The area upstream of the relocated County Road #8 would be nonmotorized access only, while the areas near the dam and in the Walker Creek areas would be restricted to certain motor sizes. Recreation sport fishing at Milltown Hill is expected to average about 6,500 angler-days annually. This assumes an initial stocking

of largemouth bass by the ODFW, and annual stocking of about 3,000 to 5,000 catchable rainbow trout. The warm water fishery is assumed to be self-sustainable and not require future treatment or additional stocking (Fish and Wildlife Service, 1990).

The reservoir would store 24,143 acre-feet of water at normal full pool. Releases would be made for the purposes of irrigation, municipal and industrial water supply and fish enhancement. Up to 7,737 acre-feet of reservoir space would be specifically dedicated to downstream fish enhancement (See: Section 3.1.8, Water Quantity). The project would store water, except for statutory releases and spillway flows, during high flow periods of late fall, winter, and early spring. Storage of water during the high flow period would not adversely affect aquatic resources downstream because releases would still occur above those necessary to protect aquatic life. Although there would be up to 7,737 acre-feet dedicated to fish enhancement, the actual amount available would depend on water year. For example, hydrological analyses for a 65 year period show that the quantity of water available varies. The 50, 75, and 90% exceedence are 6,500, 6,000, and 5,000 acre-feet, respectively (See: Figure 3-8-5, Section 3.1.8, Water Quantity). Although irrigation return flows are anticipated, they are not included in the storage for fish enhancement.

Flow releases would occur at the dam for municipal, industrial and irrigation demands during summer months. Although these are considered project releases, the flows would benefit fisheries resources as well, and would be an improvement over existing conditions of naturally low summer and fall flows (See: Section 3.1.8, Water Quantity). In addition to project flows, there would be fish enhancement flows available for release during summer and fall months (See: Section 3.1.8, Water Quantity). These flows would be released as desired by agreement between ODFW and County. With control over the temperature of the released water, the cooler water and increased flows would substantially improve rearing habitat for anadromous and resident fish in the mainstem of Elk Creek below the dam. In addition, the Yoncalla Valley pipeline would be used to deliver water to the lower 2.5 miles of Yoncalla Creek for streamflow enhancement during the same low flow period.

A low water year (1977) and an average water year (1957) were selected for monthly comparisons of flow during the summer months at various locations (See: Tables 3-8-5 and 3-8-6, Section 3.1.8, Water Quantity). Critical months when flows are low (0-5 cfs) are usually July through September or October, depending on water year. The existing (natural) flows are shown in comparison to project flows, excluding fish enhancement flows. Fish enhancement flows available for each year are also shown. The total project flow is the flow released to satisfy downstream water demands as well as enhancement flows for fisheries resources. Stored releases for fish enhancement would be protected from appropriation by an instream water right. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

(ODFW) would apply to the Water Resources Department for an instream water right.

The release of enhancement flows for fisheries resources would be flexible to allow the ODFW to manage the resource as necessary in any given year. The time of release would be at the discretion of ODFW and could vary from year to year, depending on management objectives. Flow release could be made to optimize spawning and rearing habitat conditions, primarily for coho salmon, chinook salmon, and winter steelhead. Flows also could be released to provide passage or for attraction of fish into Elk Creek. Releases would be made to provide either additional flows per se or flows to modify the temperature regime or both.

Reservoir water temperatures were simulated for several years (1977 and 1987-1990). The results of simulation show that temperatures of reservoir multiport releases could be maintained between about 40 and 48 degrees F until about October, depending on water year and air temperature regime. By October, the reservoir is low and water temperatures would increase rapidly to about 55°F to 65°F level by November (1977). In October and November, ambient air temperatures are low and stream water temperatures would not be expected to increase. Some decrease could be expected (See: Section 3.1.9, Water Quality).

The reservoir release temperatures were similar for all years modelled except for the high temperature in September 1977. The average reservoir release temperature for each time period modelled was used as an input temperature for the stream model. For September a high temperature (63 °F), representing 1977, was used and a lower temperature (52 °F) representing other years was used. The computer modeling of stream water temperatures indicated that water temperatures would be less than 65°F between the dam to about river mile 10. Downstream of river mile 10, temperature could be above 65°F, depending on year and flow available for enhancement. Releases from the fish enhancement storage would be needed to keep temperature between the dam and river mile 10 less than 65°F, after about July 1. Temperatures could exceed 65°F between Drain and Elkton and could approach 70°F or higher at the mouth.

Increased flow and lowered temperature would significantly enhance fisheries habitat, but existing poor habitat conditions (substrate) in Elk Creek could continue to limit fish production. Accordingly, additional enhancement efforts (Figures 2-5 and 2-6) would be undertaken by Douglas County and would include:

- Placement of 8,000 square feet of spawning gravel one foot deep and provision of woody debris in Elk Creek between RM 39.4 (dam site) and RM 34.4.

- Placement of 33,000 square feet of spawning gravel one foot deep and provision of woody debris in Elk Creek between RM 34.4 and the mouth.
- Placement of a total of 4,000 square feet of spawning gravel one foot deep in the lower reaches of Adams and Yoncalla Creeks.
- Riparian enhancement on 1 to 2 miles of stream to reduce erosion and to provide riparian vegetation.
- Evaluation of the impact of Cunningham Dam at RM 17.5 on fish passage.
- Supplementation of existing anadromous fish populations with juvenile presmolts for at least the first 5 years of project operation.

The schedule for these activities is shown in Figure 2.8, Section 2.2.2.15, Construction Schedule and Work Sequence.

The combination of habitat improvements, increased flows, and improved temperatures would substantially enhance spawning and rearing conditions for anadromous fish in Elk Creek mainstem and in Yoncalla Creek. Also, rearing habitat for anadromous fish that use the tributary stream to spawn would be enhanced as they move into Elk Creek. The spawning escapement of anadromous fish to the Elk Creek system could be about 4,500 adults annually. Table 3-15-2 summarizes the increased spawning escapement of anadromous fish that could occur with the project.

Table 3-15-2. Estimated Increased Spawning Escapement of Anadromous Fish with the Milltown Hill Project, Douglas County, Oregon.

<u>Predicted Escapement</u>	<u>Winter Steelhead</u>	<u>Coho</u>	<u>Fall Chinook</u>	<u>Cutthroat Trout</u>
River Mile 0 - 29	500	800	1,200	400
River Mile 29 - 34	500	600	-	600
Losses upstream of dam	50	50	0	0
Net change	950	1,350	1,200	1,000

The commercial and sport harvest was estimated based on the escapement, catch to escapement ratios, and commercial to sport harvest ratios (Myers, 1992). Table 3-15-3 exhibits the estimated contribution of winter steelhead, coho, fall chinook, and sea-run cutthroat.

Table 3-15-3. Estimated Commercial and Sport Fishery Harvest.

Species	Harvest		Total
	Commercial	Sport	
Winter Steelhead	0	570	570
Coho	3,119	1,607	4,725
Fall Chinook	1,800	600	2,400
Sea-run Cutthroat	0	200	200
TOTAL	4,919	2,377	7,295

Source: Myers, 1992.

3.1.15.3 Mitigation of Impacts to Fisheries Resources

Water quality impacts would be minimized during construction in the reservoir pool area. Various measures would be implemented to reduce runoff of erosional material. Construction in the stream would be minimized and would occur during low flow periods. Periodic discharge flows from settling ponds (less than 1/2 cfs periodically) would be monitored to ensure maintenance of water quality. (See: Section 3.1.9, Water Quality). Construction impacts to existing fisheries resources are considered minor and short-term.

Operation of the proposed project would substantially enhance anadromous fish habitat in the Elk Creek subbasin. A small portion of the subbasin's habitat would be lost upstream of the dam, but increased production from improved flows and temperatures below the dam, in conjunction with the proposed habitat improvements, would more than offset the losses. The new resident fishery in the reservoir, also due in part to habitat improvements, would more than offset losses to the relatively small existing resident trout fishery (Fish and Wildlife Service, 1990).

The analysis of anadromous fish benefits assumes that flows and temperatures would be suitable for spawning and rearing and that they could be managed to optimize habitat conditions. A detailed monitoring and evaluation program would be developed and implemented as part of the project. The program would specify the objective to be achieved, monitoring methods to be used, and how changes to the fish enhancement program would be coordinated and implemented. Results from monitoring would be used to retain strategies that are working and to modify those that are not.

The monitoring and evaluation program would also be used to finalize the locations of some of the habitat improvement measures. Initial habitat improvements would be accomplished between Boswell Springs and the dam and in Yoncalla Creek. The locations of habitat improvements on the mainstem of Elk Creek below Boswell Springs would be based on monitoring temperature and flow conditions that develop during project operation. The monitoring

program would include evaluation of physical, habitat, and biological parameters and would be developed in coordination with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries Service, and Fish and Wildlife Service.

The sequence and timing of implementing the fish enhancement measures are also important. Supplementation with juveniles would be accomplished during project construction (See: Figure 2.8, Section 2.2.2.15, Construction Schedule and Work Sequence). Juvenile releases would include proper acclimation procedures to ensure improved survival. Habitat improvements would be constructed along with project construction so that enhanced fish production can be fully realized as soon as project operations begin. Supplementation would continue through the early years of project operation to assure early achievement of the fish enhancement objectives. These activities would be the responsibility of Douglas County.

Samples of fish would be periodically taken from the reservoir and tested for mercury contamination. A sampling program and schedule would be developed by Douglas County for a 3 year period to evaluate levels of mercury. Results would be evaluated yearly and at the end of the 3-year study an evaluation would be made whether to continue with further analysis on a yearly basis or to decrease the frequency of sampling.

The supplementation program would be developed by Douglas County in consultation with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Marine Fisheries Service. Coho, fall chinook salmon, and winter steelhead would be target species for consideration. Although chinook would not likely go above river mile 10, coho and steelhead may reach the base of the dam. Coho and steelhead would be trapped during project construction and removed to a hatchery designated by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for egg taking. Fish would be reared and released near the base of the dam or at other locations as directed by Department of Fish and Wildlife. These fish would be used for supplementation purposes. The source of fall chinook for supplementation would be determined during project construction.

3.1.16 Threatened and Endangered Species

Pursuant to the 1973 Endangered Species Act, as amended, Bureau of Reclamation initiated Section 7 Consultation by requesting from the Fish and Wildlife Service a list of threatened and endangered species that may occur in the project area. A request was made by the Bureau of Reclamation in 1986 and again in 1991. The Bureau of Reclamation received 2 lists that included species that could occur in the project area. These are the Columbian white-tailed deer (endangered), the bald eagle

(threatened), and the Northern spotted owl (threatened). The Fish and Wildlife Service also included candidate species. These are a plant species (rough allocarya), a fish (umpqua chub), and a turtle (western pond turtle). The Oregon chub (Hybopsis crameri) was cited by the Fish and wildlife Service as a Category 2 species in their 1986 correspondence. In their 1991 correspondence, they substituted the Umpqua chub. In addition, the Oregon Natural Heritage Program was contacted for a search of their records. They did not have any threatened or endangered species in their records for the project area. (See: Appendix F, Threatened and Endangered Species).

3.1.16.1 Listed Species

3.1.16.1.2 Columbian White-Tailed Deer

A population of Columbian white-tailed deer, known as the "Roseburg Population," occurs in Douglas County mainly along the North Umpqua River between Glide and Wilbur. The reservoir pool area has not been identified to be in the core habitat by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The habitat is not considered to be critical by the Fish and Wildlife Service (Fish and Wildlife Service, 1990). The population has been expanding its core range northward and could conceivably extend its range into the Elk Creek drainage. Individual white-tailed deer that have been marked to study their distribution have been recently observed in the Elk Creek drainage near the reservoir site (pers. comm. George Kister, ODFW, Roseburg District).

Columbian white-tailed deer inhabit a variety of habitat types including grass-shrub, oak woodlands and conifers. Lowland riparian zones are probably the most important habitat type for all life stages of the species and serve as corridors for dispersal and geographic expansion. Understory shrub vegetation is an especially important component of their habitat (Fish and Wildlife Service, 1990).

The Roseburg population is currently estimated to be about 6,000 white-tailed deer. This level exceeds the requirements for downlisting the species from endangered to threatened. The only requirement that has to be met for delisting the species is to provide 5,500 acres of secured habitat. Habitat is considered to be secured only if it is protected from adverse human activities (e.g., heavy unregulated grazing by domestic animals and clearing of woody plants, for example) in the foreseeable future, and is relatively safe from natural phenomena that would destroy its value to Columbian white-tailed deer. The Columbian white-tailed Deer Recovery Team has formulated an approach for securing the required habitat. Since most core habitat is on private land, the most effective way of securing habitat is by obtaining cooperative

agreements such as covenants on deeds or perpetual conservation easements (Fish and Wildlife Service, 1990).

3.1.16.1.3 Bald Eagle

Bald eagles nest and winter throughout Oregon. There have been about 11 active bald eagle nesting territories in Douglas County, including one on the North Umpqua River northeast of Roseburg, but they are not known to use the project area. According to the Pacific Bald Eagle Recovery Plan, the primary threats to bald eagle populations in the Umpqua Basin include logging, human disturbance, and shooting (Fish and Wildlife Service, 1990).

3.1.16.1.4 Northern Spotted Owl

The project area is within the range of the northern spotted owl. A survey was initiated in 1991 by Douglas County to determine if owls exist within 1½ miles of the proposed dam site. No owls were located. The Fish and Wildlife Service has published in the Federal Register a Revised Proposed Determination of Critical Habitat for the northern spotted owl (FR Vol 56, No. 156). This revised proposed determination eliminates all private lands, tribal lands and most state-owned lands which were listed in the May 6, 1991 designation. The August 13, 1991 determination indicates no federal lands in the Milltown Hill Project area are classified as critical habitat for the owl. The Fish and Wildlife Service published a final decision on the proposed designation of critical habitat for the owl in January 1, 1992. Based on a review of maps, no project lands are in critical habitat.

3.1.16.2 Biological Assessment

For compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, Bureau of Reclamation prepared a biological assessment for the listed species (November 5, 1987). Although the peregrine falcon (endangered) was not included in the Fish and Wildlife Service correspondence, it was addressed in the biological assessment and a conclusion made that it would not be adversely affected. The biological assessment concluded that the project would not negatively affect bald eagles. Since the Columbian white-tailed deer was not found in the project area, the project would have no impact on existing populations. The impact evaluations for bald eagles and Columbian white-tailed deer in 1987 were as follows:

Following construction, bald eagles may be attracted to the reservoir due to an increased forage base of fish and waterbirds. Bald eagles could nest in some of the larger

trees left on the timbered ridges above the project site.

Habitat that is potentially suitable for the Columbian white-tailed deer would be reduced 681 acres by reservoir inundation. This habitat is also suitable for black-tailed deer.

The Fish and Wildlife Service concurred with these conclusions.

The biological assessment was updated in November 1991 and addressed Columbian white-tailed deer, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, and northern spotted owl (See: Appendix F, Threatened and Endangered Species).

The biological assessment was reviewed by Fish and Wildlife Service. They responded in a December 12, 1991, letter stating that, based on the information in the assessment, they concur that the proposed project would not likely adversely affect Columbian white-tailed deer, bald eagle, peregrine falcon, or northern spotted owl (See: Appendix F).

3.1.16.3 Unlisted and Candidate Species

3.1.16.3.1 Plants

No threatened and endangered plant species have been reported on the project area by Fish and Wildlife Service or Oregon Natural Heritage Program. Although the Pacific yew is not a Federal listed species, County requested an evaluation because of its importance in medical research. Pacific yew trees have been located on BLM lands in the project area and have been harvested (pers. comm., Lowell Hayes, Bureau of Land Management, September 5, 1991).

Rough allocarya is a Federal Candidate Species (Category 1). A Category 1 taxa is one for which the Fish and Wildlife Service has sufficient biological information to support a proposal to list as endangered or threatened. The Fish and Wildlife Service is preparing a proposal for review that would list rough allocarya as an endangered species (pers. comm., Robert Parenti, March 5, 1992). The species has not been reported in the area by Fish and Wildlife Service or the Oregon Natural Heritage Program, however a survey would be conducted within any affected potential habitat. If the species is found to occur in the inundation zone, consultation would be initiated with the Fish and Wildlife Service.

3.1.16.3.2 Umpqua Chub

The Umpqua chub occurs in a spotty distribution pattern throughout the Umpqua River system, including the lower reaches of

1.7 miles to
Hobart Butte
Quarry

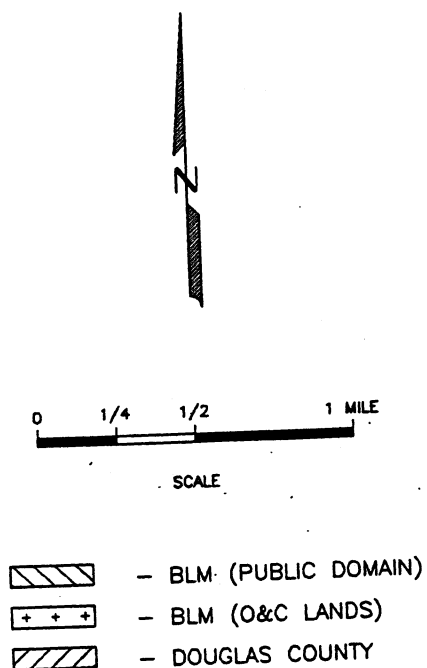


FIGURE 3-20-1
MILLTOWN HILL PROJECT
LAND OWNERSHIP

- Pass Creek Park, located near Curtin on Interstate 5, 8 miles north of the project area, contains 30 camping units, picnicking, playground, fireplaces, showers and toilets.
- Anna Drain Park, located in the city of Drain, and maintained by the city, is a small park, having a playground, picnicking, drinking water and toilet facilities.

Dorena Lake and Cottage Grove Lake, two large impoundments, are located in Lane County, approximately 30 miles north of the project area. Plat I Reservoir and Cooper Creek Reservoir are located near Sutherlin about 20 miles south. These lakes have picnicking and camping facilities, and provide fishing and other flat water recreational opportunities.

3.1.17.2 Impacts to Recreation

Douglas County would construct 2 recreation facilities on the shores of the Milltown Hill Reservoir (Figure 2-4). The larger facility, located on the east shore, would provide the following:

- Access roads
- Caretaker facilities
- Launch ramp and trolley dock
- Individual and group picnic sites
- Restrooms
- Parking for 61 single vehicles and 40 vehicles with trailers
- Pavilion with electrical outlets
- Well and water treatment facilities
- Overnight camping area (future development)

The second facility would be constructed on the west shore of the reservoir. It would consist of a boat ramp and parking for 29 vehicles with trailers, or 62 single vehicles, pit toilets and 5 picnic sites (Horn, 1990).

The reservoir would experience about 53,000 recreational use-days per year (Table 3-17-1). The anadromous sport fishery in the Umpqua River and in the ocean would be enhanced by the project. Sport catch is estimated to be about 2,977 winter steelhead, coho, fall chinook and sea-run cutthroat (See: 3.1.15, Fisheries Resources).

Table 3-17-1. Anticipated Reservoir Recreation Use.

<u>Facility Based Use</u>	
<u>Recreation</u>	<u>Number Days</u>
2 Boat Ramps ^{1/}	10,000
52 Picnic Units	20,000
Fishing Days	6,500
Subtotal	36,500
<u>Non-Facility Based Use</u> ^{2/}	16,500
Total	53,000

1) Assumes east ramp would receive the majority of spring/early summer use, and west ramp would receive moderate spring/early summer and late summer use.

2) Sightseeing, hiking, wildlife observation, dispersed picnicking.

Source: Bureau of Reclamation, 1991.

Adverse impacts to recreational activities would be the loss of an estimated 100 hunter-days annually for upland game in the reservoir pool area. In addition, an estimated 1,000 angler-days would be lost annually in the 4.5 miles of Elk Creek which would be inundated by the reservoir.

Use of the reservoir and surrounding area by recreationists would create minor adverse impacts to local residents (See: Sections 3.1.7, Noise; 3.1.20, Land Use; and 3.1.22, Transportation).

3.1.17.3 Mitigation

Impacts to the existing limited sport fishery would be mitigated by the new warm-water and trout fishery in the reservoir. Improvement of fish habitat downstream from the dam would benefit the trout fishery and would more than offset the losses. The project would provide a new and significant source of public recreation in northern Douglas County. The loss of 100 hunter-days annually for upland game would be mitigated by the 500 hunter-days for bird and waterfowl hunting (See: Section 3.1.14.3 Mitigation of Impacts to Wildlife). The reservoir would have the potential of attracting large numbers of waterfowl. The harvest of migratory waterfowl would offset the loss of existing upland game hunting opportunities.

3.1.18 Cultural Resources

3.1.18.1 Existing Cultural Resources

Little is known of the prehistoric inhabitants of the Umpqua River drainage. Archeological excavations indicate the area has

been in use since the Paleo-Indian period (before 10,000 years ago). However, archeological evidence of occupation does not become abundant until about 6,000 to 4,000 years ago. Available information indicates that prehistoric inhabitants followed a settlement-subsistence system involving seasonal migration from lowland villages to upland task-specific camps. At Euro-American contact around 1810, the resident Native Americans were practicing a hunting-gathering economy that utilized available fish, game, and plant resources (Beckham and Minor, 1988).

The Milltown Hill reservoir area and other project lands would be associated primarily with the lowland aspect of this settlement-subsistence system. Valley terraces above the flood elevation may contain remnants of winter village sites spanning thousands of years of use. Remnants of short term camps may also be present where inhabitants returned to harvest seasonally available plant foods or to catch anadromous fish.

Upper Elk Creek drew Euro-American settlers as early as 1855. By 1866, five donation land claims had been patented within the proposed reservoir pool area, and 16 families lived in the general area. Around 1870, the Elkhead Mine was opened and remained in operation through 1971. However, census records indicate that farming and stockraising have always been the primary economic activity for area residents. In 1877, the Elkhead Post Office was opened, and in 1886 a school was built. The small town of Elkhead subsequently grew around these structures and remains today as a community of 10 to 12 residences (Beckham and Minor, 1988).

In 1988, a Class I literature search was conducted to identify the potential cultural resources sites or structures in or near the project area (Beckham and Minor, 1988). Eighteen historic structures, features, and homestead locations were identified from document research. Local residents also reported the presence of two prehistoric archeological sites within the reservoir pool area.

In 1989, a Class III cultural resources survey was completed for the areas within and around the Milltown Hill Reservoir project. A significantly larger area was surveyed than would be affected by project development, because the proposed reservoir elevation was reduced after the archeological survey occurred. Approximately 2,000 acres were surveyed, encompassing all areas now to be affected by the reservoir pool and its operation, adjacent recreation and wildlife mitigation areas, construction staging areas, road relocations, and all other areas that would be acquired by the County as part of the project. About 206 acres were surveyed downstream of the damsite, for the pipeline right-of-way (ROW). One-hundred percent of the area within the project takeline was surveyed at the Class III (intensive) level, with survey intervals spaced 15 to 20 meters apart. Survey methods and results are detailed in Minor and Beckham (1990).

Visibility was excellent in the pipeline right-of-way; it passes primarily through plowed fields or adjacent to existing roads. No sites were recorded in these areas, and it is unlikely that undetected resources are present. Visibility, however, was poor in the inundation area due to dense vegetation. Three prehistoric archeological sites were recorded in locations where the vegetation had been removed (sites 35D0449, D0450, and D0451). Only a few flakes from stone tool manufacture were found at each site. A fourth prehistoric site was reported by local residents to be present in a farm yard near Elkhead. One historic archeological site, a dugout depression, was recorded within the reservoir pool as site ORDO6. The Sarah Coats Homestead (site ORDO5) was recorded immediately outside of the project take-line. Test excavations are needed at all sites within the take-line to determine if they contain deposits that make them eligible to the National Register of Historic Places (the Register).

During the Class III inventory, all standing structures approximately 50 years or older were recorded. Twelve historic structures were recorded within the project impact area, including houses, barns, and other outbuildings dating from the early 20th Century. Minor and Beckham (1990) who recorded these structures, recommended that none are eligible to the Register, and Bureau of Reclamation concurs with this assessment. Consultations about the structures' eligibility have been initiated with the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). SHPO has concurred that six of the 12 structures are not eligible to the Register. SHPO asked for additional information about the remaining structures before offering a determination. The information is presently being obtained from the contractor. When the forms have been revised, they will once again be submitted to the SHPO for evaluative comment.

In 1991, the County determined that a causeway was necessary across Elk Creek as part of road relocations associated with Milltown Hill Reservoir. Minor and Beckham (1990) had recorded no sites there, but surface visibility had been limited. Bureau of Reclamation and the SHPO determined test excavations were necessary to clearly determine if significant archeological deposits were present. Therefore, in August 1991, the County contracted for subsurface test excavations in the causeway location. Archeological site 35D0478 was discovered within the causeway location on the east side of Elk Creek (Roulette, Fagan, and Mills 1992). The site appears to be a small, single component site, probably dating to the Late Archaic Period. Bureau of Reclamation and the SHPO have determined that D0478 is eligible to the Register, and that archaeological excavation is necessary to mitigate adverse project effect on the site. Consultations have been initiated with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (the Council) about project effect and appropriate treatment.

As indicated above, survey visibility was poor in the

reservoir area. Therefore, Bureau of Reclamation required that test probing occur in the inundation areas likely to contain undetected deposits. Ultimately, 17 areas were tested in the project area (Fagan 1992). These areas were selected because they appeared to have the highest probability to contain subsurface sites, as indicated by an analysis of the distribution of recorded sites in the region. These locations also encompassed the range of valley environmental zones, including different stream terraces, stream confluence parameters, and sections of the valley. Auger probes and 0.5 by 0.5 meter test units were excavated in these areas; the intensity of testing was low, intended only to determine if cultural material was present, and formal test excavations warranted. Fifteen of the 17 areas probed yielded cultural material. Formal test excavations would be needed at these locations to determine if deposits are present that are eligible to the Register. Preliminary information indicates that at least several of the locations contain significant cultural deposits. A particularly significant area is the vicinity of the confluence of Lane and Elk Creeks.

In 1992, the County will initiate formal consultations with interested Native American's about potential project effects upon sites of traditional value to the tribes. Consulted tribes would be the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe, Confederated Tribe of Grand Ronde, and Confederated Tirbes of Siletz. Consultations would include a written request that the tribes indicate if they are aware of sites of traditional value within the project impact area. If a tribe responds that they are aware of traditional resources that would be adversely affected by the project, then meetings would be initiated with the concerned group to identify the areas of concern, and determine means to address the concern. Also, a general policy would be developed, in consultation with the tribes, about how to deal with human burials, if such are encountered during archeological excavations or during construction of project features.

3.1.18.2 Impacts to Cultural Resources

All actions taken to address potential project effects to archeological, architectural, of traditional resources shall be conducted in accordance with 36 CFR 800.

Bureau of Reclamation and the SHPO have determined that site 35DO478 is eligible to the Register. The site would be destroyed due to project-related road construction. In the summer of 1992, 35DO478 would be archeologically excavated in accordance with a mitigation plan approved by the SHPO and the Council.

Until systematic, formal test excavations are completed at the other recorded sites and the locations that probing indicate contain cultural material, it is not possible to fully assess

project effects upon archeological resources. Systematic test excavations will begin in 1992, and may extend into 1993. It is expected that additional archeological sites will be discovered and may be eligible to the Register. These sites could be adversely effected by the project. Adverse effects could occur through damage or destruction during construction, or from inundation. Effects from inundation could include accelerated decay of organic materials from wet and dry cycles associated with reservoir operation; contamination of environmental samples from saturation; erosion of the site matrix from reservoir operation or from currents in the pool; or effects from altered or increased use of the area by recreationists or other groups.

Consultations with the SHPO would be completed for six historic structures. If the SHPO determines that any of these structures are eligible to the Register, then its alteration or destruction would be an adverse project effect, and mitigation might be required.

Sites of traditional cultural value to Native Americans may be present, and could be adversely affected through destruction, restriction of access, or introduction of incompatible features or activities nearby.

3.1.18.3 Mitigation of Impacts to Cultural Resources

If test excavations indicate any archeological site is eligible for the Register, then means to avoid or reduce the adverse project effect will be investigated. Where adverse effects cannot be avoided, the adverse effect will be mitigated through data recovery. A site protection and mitigation plan would be developed and presented to the SHPO and the Council for review and approval. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for impact mitigation actions would be signed by Bureau of Reclamation, Douglas County, the SHPO, and the Council. Native American tribes would be consulted regarding treatment of human remains and other objects, consistent with requirements in the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990.

If a standing structure was determined eligible for inclusion in the Register, means to preserve the structure would be sought. If preservation was not feasible, its historic and/or architectural characteristics would be documented. These actions would also be addressed in the site protection and mitigation plan and the MOA described above.

If sites or resources of traditional value to Native Americans were in the project area, Bureau of Reclamation or Douglas County would consult with the appropriate tribe to determine means to avoid or reduce the effect to an acceptable level. If these

measures would not be sufficient, then means to mitigate the effect would be sought, in consultation with the tribe.

Prior to beginning the project, Bureau of Reclamation would assure that Douglas County completes test excavations to determine site significance, as well as consultations with the SHPO, Council, and appropriate tribes in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 pursuant to the Council's regulations, "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR Part 800). Bureau of Reclamation would assure that Douglas County completes any actions required as a result of consultations prior to any ground disturbance at areas that may contain sites.

3.1.19 Visual Resources

3.1.19.1 Existing Visual Resources

The general character of the reservoir pool area is that of a rural agricultural setting. There is a mixture of fenced pasture land, woodlands, shrublands, and forested slopes. The dam site is located in an area recently logged, which cannot be seen from either County Road #7 or County Road #8.

The winding nature of Elk Creek and narrowing of the canyon on either end of the proposed reservoir pool area serves to break visibility up and down the creek. Much of the valley has been greatly altered by private land owners. On most properties, portions of the natural vegetation on flat, low-lying lands have been replaced with introduced grass species. Three high voltage power lines traverse the upper portion of the reservoir pool area which detracts from the local rural, agricultural setting.

The overall viewer sensitivity could be rated as low. Most of the viewers are local residents, many of whom regard the Elk Creek area as scenic because of its relatively isolated rural, pastoral setting.

Seasonal flow conditions downstream of the proposed damsite present less than satisfying visual reactions. High flows during winter and spring result in bank overflows and minor flooding. Low summer and fall flows result in dry or nearly dry creek beds, especially in the area from Drain to Elkton. These seasonal flow conditions detract from the otherwise high visual quality presented by Elk Creek. Many pools in lower Elk Creek become stagnant during low flows, resulting in accelerated algae growth and unpleasant smells.

The Bureau of Land Management has classified the lands that it administers in and near the proposed reservoir (See: Figures 3-19-1, 3-19-2) as Visual Resource Management (VRM) Class IV (BLM Manual

8440). This VRM class allows for modification and the lowest level of protection. Landscape alterations may dominate the view and may be the major focus of viewer attention. Scenic quality may be modified. This class generally includes areas with low scenic qualities and medium to low sensitivity levels, which are seldom seen from major traveled routes. The level of change to the characteristic landscape can be high (pers. comm., Kirk Casavan, BLM Roseburg District, September 6, 1991).

3.1.19.2 Impacts to Visual Resources

3.1.19.2.1 Construction

Reservoir clearing and road and dam construction would adversely affect the existing visual quality of the area since most of the existing vegetation in the reservoir pool area would be cut, piled and burned except for timber in Walker Creek and the north end of the reservoir and that south of the causeway. Construction of the pipeline distribution system would not cause significant adverse visual impacts because it would be constructed in existing road rights-of-way.

3.1.19.2.2 Operation

Operation of the project would create both favorable and adverse impacts to visual quality. At normal full pool, the reservoir would present a welcome vista to picnickers and fishermen. As drawdown increases during the irrigation season (April 1-October 30), the shoreline of the reservoir would become increasingly visually less attractive, perhaps even to the point where picnickers may avoid the recreation sites. At lowest possible drawdown condition, approximately 45 vertical feet of shoreline would be exposed, and approximately two miles of the southern portion of the reservoir pool area would have the appearance of a mud flat (Figures 3-19-1 and 3-19-2). The portion of the reservoir south of the causeway would preserve about 10 to 15 areas where water would form pools as a result of enhancement to wetlands (See: Section 3.1.14, Wildlife Resources). In addition, an island forming the base for the 500 KV line would be centrally located in the southern portion of the reservoir. Three existing major powerlines cross the southern part of the proposed reservoir area, however they are not associated with the proposed project.

The impacts to the stream below the dam would be favorable because summer flows would be increased substantially (See: Section 3.1.8, Water Quantity and Section 3.1.9, Water Quality). The increase would be visually more acceptable than present conditions. With project-controlled flows, the magnitude of winter and spring floods would be decreased, creating a more acceptable visual

TOWNSHIP 23 SOUTH, RANGE 4 WEST

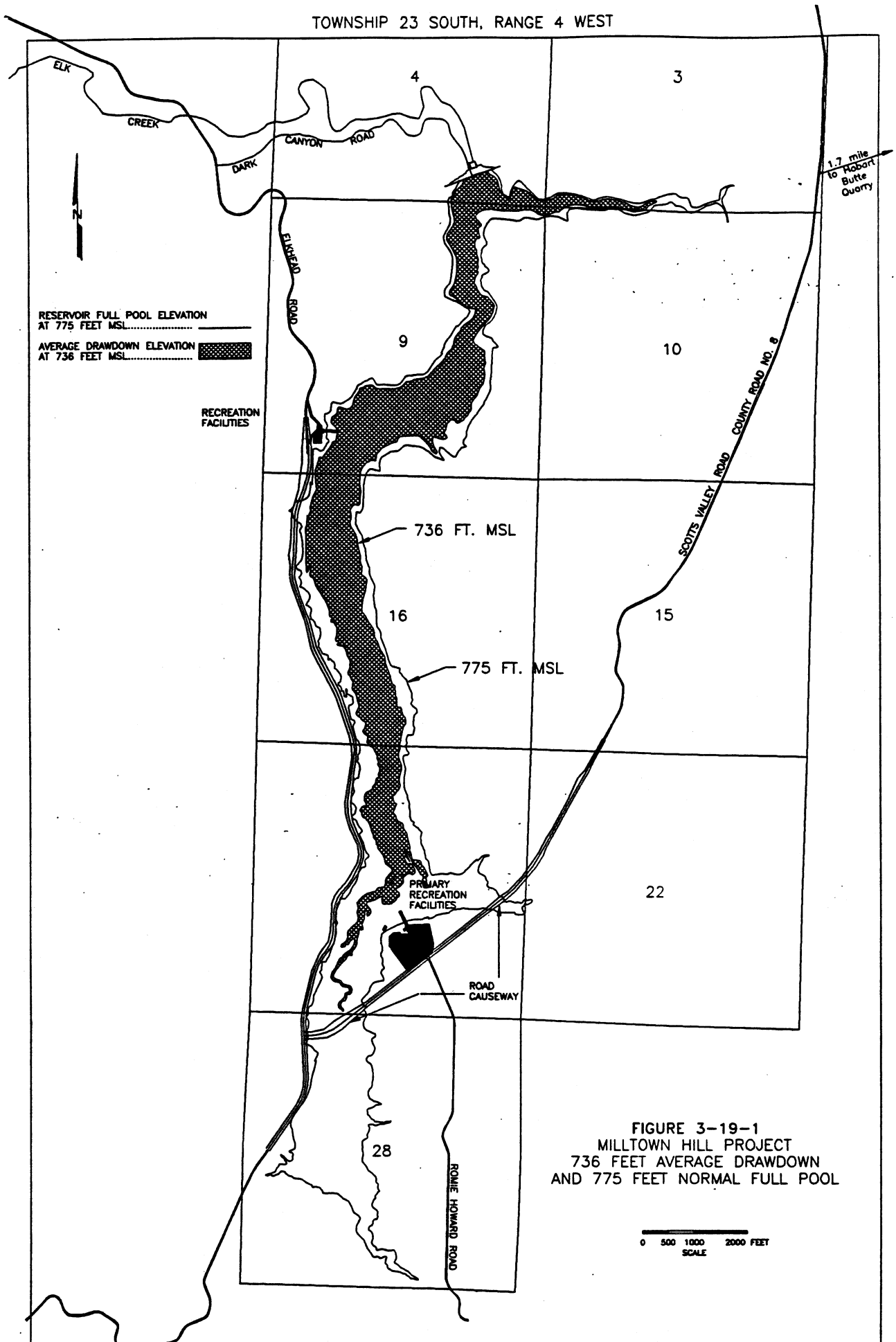
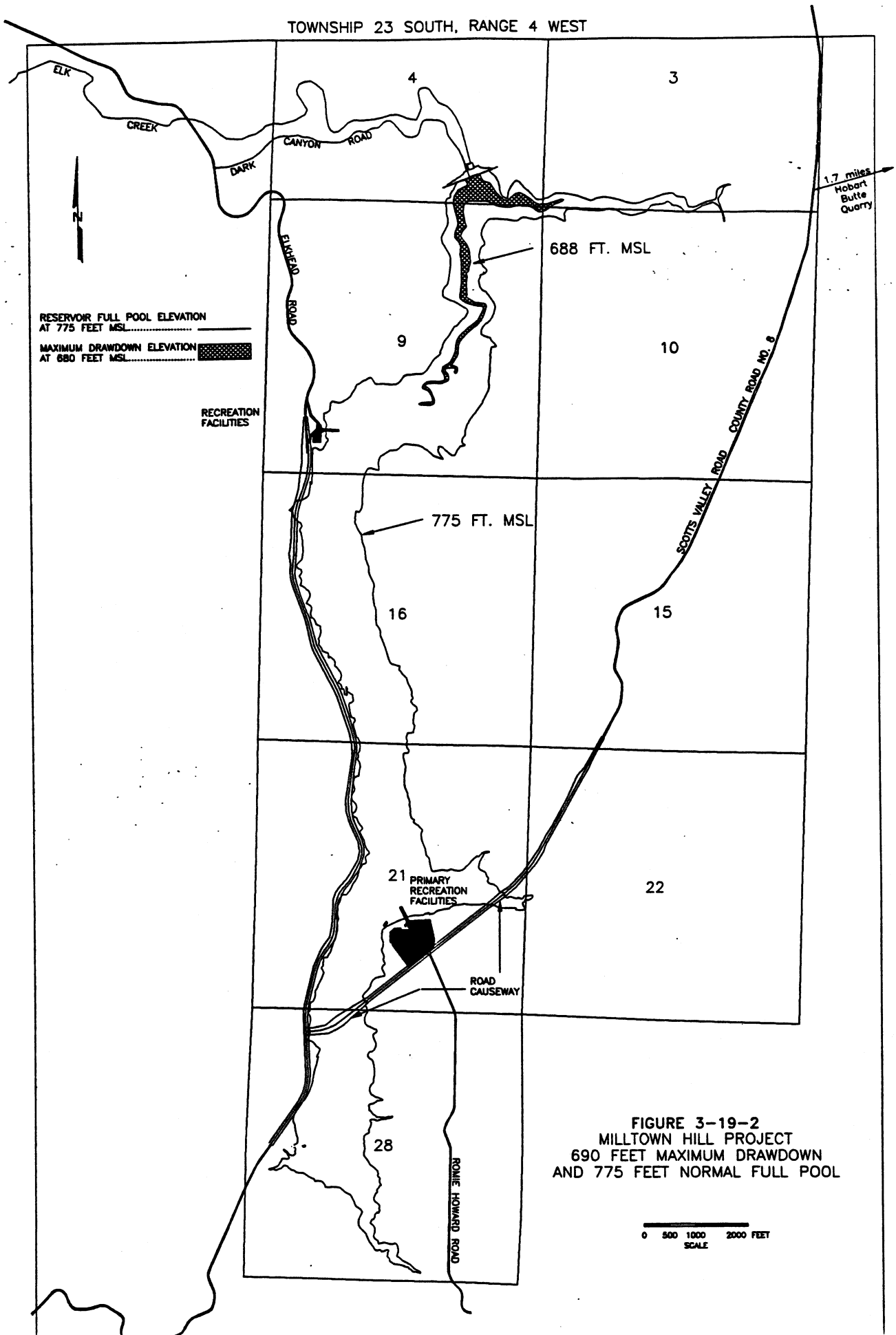


FIGURE 3-19-1
MILLTOWN HILL PROJECT
736 FEET AVERAGE DRAWDOWN
AND 775 FEET NORMAL FULL POOL

TOWNSHIP 23 SOUTH, RANGE 4 WEST



condition of Elk Creek.

No adverse impacts are anticipated in the pipeline or creek service areas during project operation.

3.1.19.3 Mitigation of Visual Quality Impacts

During the construction period little could be done to mitigate visual quality impacts. By its nature, the project requires major changes to a natural setting. The seasonal mitigation of a full or near full reservoir during the winter and spring months would only partially mitigate the visual quality of the project during the summer and fall seasons. The presence of the island and pool areas south of the causeway and the vegetative enhancement of these pool areas for wetlands would mitigate to some extent, the mud-flat appearance expected at low reservoir levels.

3.1.20 Land Use

3.1.20.1 Existing Land Use

Land in the Elk Creek subbasin is used primarily for agriculture in the lower elevations (under 800 feet msl) and for timber production in the higher elevations. Most of the forest lands are privately owned and have been harvested at least once. Land use within the watershed of the project dam is primarily forest (63%), farm-forest (21%), and farm-grazing (16%). Forest lands are split primarily between Federal (52.8%) and private owners (44.7%). The remaining 2.5% is owned by Douglas County. Farm forest lands comprise 21% of the land use and about 93% are under private ownership (Table 3-20-1).

Table 3-20-1. Land Use and Ownership within the Watershed of the Proposed Milltown Hill Dam.

LAND USE	OWNERSHIP (ACRES)			TOTALS	PERCENT
	FEDERAL	COUNTY	PRIVATE		
Forest	6,500	300	5,500	12,300	63
Farm-forest	---	300	3,800	4,100	21
Farm-grazing	---	---	3,100	3,100	16
Totals	6,500	600	12,400	19,500	100
Percent	43	3	64	100	---
Source: Douglas County Planning Department, 1991.					

Within the reservoir take-line (1,192 acres), there is a

mixture of Douglas County, BLM, and private land ownership (Figure 3-20-1). Most timber stands are in various stages of regrowth; some are up to 25 to 40 years of age. A small amount of public timber has also been cut. Federal public lands are managed by the Roseburg District of the Bureau of Land Management. These lands are Public Domain lands managed under the authority of the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (FLPMA), and Revested Oregon and California Railroad Grant Lands managed under the authority of the Act of August 28, 1937 (O&C Act). Under the O&C Act, these lands were set aside for permanent timber production. The Roseburg District published a Management Framework Plan (MFP) in 1983, specifying that lands under its jurisdiction in the Elk Creek subbasin are to be managed primarily for timber production. The MFP is presently being updated and is scheduled to be replaced by a Resource Management Plan (RMP) in 1993.

The agricultural lands are used as pastures for sheep and other livestock. Hay is grown in the bottoms along the stream course. Land use within the portions of the subbasin that are suitable for irrigation is almost exclusively used as grass pasture, hay or combination pasture-hay. A very minor acreage is in wine vineyards, orchards and Christmas tree farms. A significant acreage of the alluvial lands have been improved by clearing of timber and undergrowth, leveled and subsequently seeded to grass-clover mixes such as perennial ryegrass and white clover. The residual soils on the outlying slopes have generally unimproved native range grasses with scattered brush and timber. There are no Prime or Unique farmlands in the irrigation service area according to the SCS. The reservoir area was surveyed for Prime and Unique farmlands in 1991. A total of 115 acres were classified as having soils qualified as Prime farmlands (Figure 3-3-4).

A minor portion of the Elk Creek subbasin is occupied by the towns of Drain, Elkton, and Yoncalla. Another small portion is occupied by Interstate 5 and other minor State and County roads, and a railroad right-of-way. An electrical utility corridor transects the project area in the vicinity of the proposed reservoir.

3.1.20.2 Impacts to Land Use

3.1.20.2.1 Construction

Construction of the Milltown Hill project would immediately change land uses on 681 acres in the reservoir site and the adjacent 512 acre "take" area. There would be a change of use from present farming and timber production to a water storage facility, with the dam and ancillary recreational facilities. Portions of County Roads #7 and #8 would be relocated. At least 10 residences with outbuildings would be moved or destroyed. The installation of

TOWNSHIP 23 SOUTH, RANGE 4 WEST

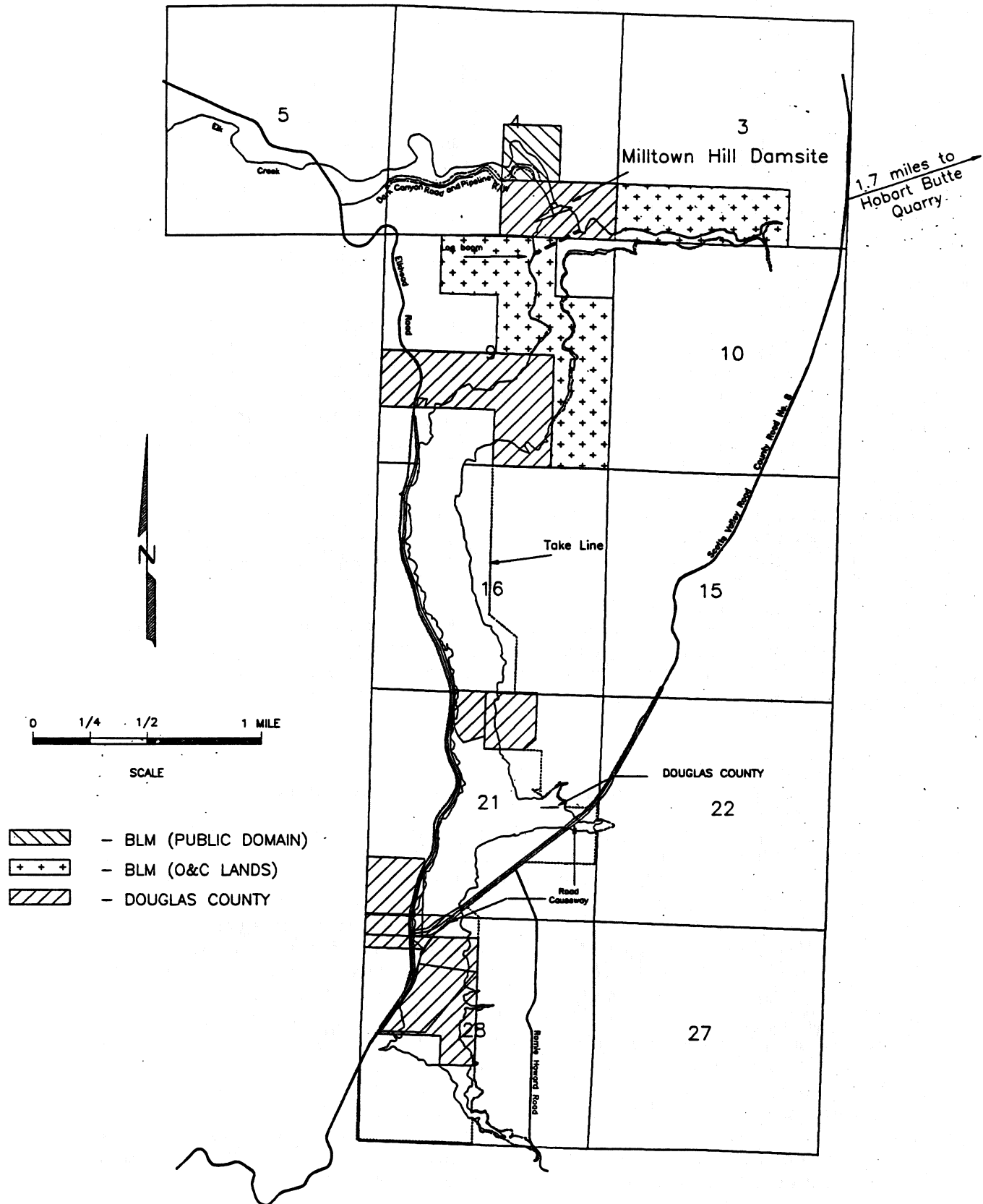


FIGURE 3-20-1
MILLTOWN HILL PROJECT
LAND OWNERSHIP

Metropolitan Statistical Areas, Douglas County has the largest civilian Labor Force in Oregon, with the January, 1991 level being 44,320. The unemployment rate for the same period for the County was 12.7%, ranking third highest among Oregon counties; nearly double the statewide figure of 6.8% and the national value of 7%. Thus, Douglas County possesses all the primary resources necessary for further economic development and opportunities for diversification, except for a reliable water supply. With the project, that resource will become available (Myers, 1992).

3.1.21.2.2 Operation Impacts

3.1.21.2.2.1 Annual Benefits

The estimated annual benefits from operation of the project are approximately \$2,330,432 as shown in Table 3-21-8. These estimates were derived during project evaluation for each project function (Myers, 1992).

Table 3-21-8. Annual Benefits from Project Operation.

<u>Project Function</u>	<u>Annual Benefit</u>
1. Irrigation	
Pipeline Service Area	\$250,290
Elk Creek Service Area	82,810
Total	\$333,100
2. Municipal/Industrial	
Pipeline Service Area	\$881,860
Elk Creek Service Area	269,330
Total	\$1,151,190
3. Anadromous Fish	\$355,342
4. Recreation	342,500
5. Flood Control	148,300
	=====
TOTAL	\$2,330,432

Source: Myers, 1992.

3.1.21.2.2.2 Increased Farm Income

The opportunity to supplement farm family income with sustained increases in livestock, hay and pasture production through additional irrigation would alleviate several problems facing the County. The steady and increased income would sustain and revitalize the retail and service industries, softening the seasonal, cyclical adverse impacts of timber industry employment. The increased farm income would supplement income presently received from manufacturing or other timber dependent activities.

3.1.21.2.2.3 New Industries

A year-round water supply could also be used to strengthen non-timber related industries and attract a few new industries to the local area, especially Yoncalla, Rice Hill, and Drain. Yoncalla

employment in Douglas County and emphasized the dependence of the industry on national economic conditions and the cyclical variations which impact the industry. National concern for the dwindling old growth forest base has also created an uncertain future. The traditional multiple use approach to forest management has been challenged with recreation and environmental issues conflicting with timber harvest decisions. The County has had little control in the decisions to be made on future timber harvest levels on federal, state, and private lands, (Bureau of Reclamation, 1991).

The second basic industry, tourism, also relies on the natural resources of the County. Several destination recreation areas in the County, including Crater Lake National Park and the Oregon Sand Dunes National Recreation Area, three wilderness areas, the Umpqua national forest as well as the County's extensive park system, attract visitors. Interstate-5 passes through the County from north to south. Good roads leading to the ocean and the mountains provide recreation opportunities for sightseers, fishermen and hunters (Bureau of Reclamation, 1991).

Agriculture is another basic industry that plays an important role in the economy of Douglas County. Livestock grazing occurs on 11 percent of the County's land area. Orchards, grains, and row crops are grown on another 2 percent. Douglas County is the leading sheep producer in Oregon, as well as a leading cattle producer in western Oregon. Livestock, hay, and pasture remain the most important agricultural products, particularly in the Elk Creek subbasin. Lack of a reliable source of water for irrigation is limiting the expansion of this industry (Bureau of Reclamation, 1991).

Douglas County contains abundant mineral deposits and is the only domestic source of nickel, however low market prices have discouraged mineral extraction. The last mining operation in the Elk Creek subbasin was the Elkhead Mine which extracted cinnabar for the recovery of elemental mercury. The mine was closed in 1971.

Efforts are being made by Douglas County to change the industrial composition of its economic base. The first is the County's efforts to diversify the economic base. The County identified the construction of water storage projects as one element in the effort to attract new industry to the area. Construction of additional storage would improve the potential for economic growth, because existing industries are water limited. The construction of Galesville Dam in the southern portion of the County in 1985 demonstrates this fact. This effort has resulted in three major new manufacturing facilities recently locating in the Roseburg area. Although the wood products industry will continue to be Douglas County's most important industry, it will not be the source of many new jobs (Bureau of Reclamation, 1991).

The second effort is the broad restructuring of the economy away from goods-producing towards service-producing, reflecting the trend in the Nation. The impact is less noticeable in Douglas County because of the substantially greater role of the wood products industry. However, as the wood products industry itself restructures, the trend towards a service economy will be more noticeable.

3.1.21.1.3 Employment

The total civilian labor force in Douglas County totaled an average 45,000 people in 1990. Approximately 7.6 percent of the work force or 3,400 people were unemployed. Total non-agricultural wage and salary employment in Douglas County averaged 32,000 in 1989 according to data provided by the Employment Division of the Department of Human Resources of the State of Oregon. Approximately 8,900 of these jobs were in the timber and wood products industry with a 1989 payroll of over \$217 million. These jobs are included in the percentage of manufacturing jobs illustrated in Figure 3-21-2.

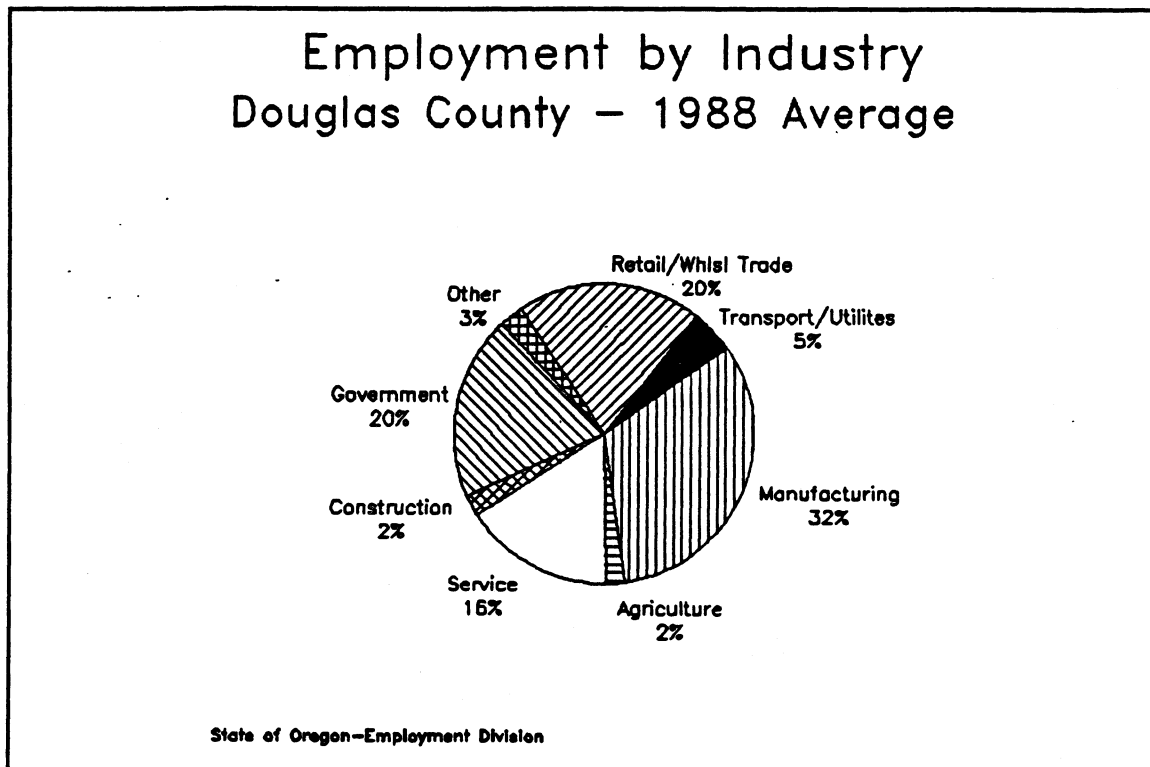


Figure 3-21-2. Employment by industry.

It is estimated that each wood products industry job creates at least one other job in the business community. Self employed and unpaid family workers comprise 11 to 13 percent of the total work force. Nonfarm proprietors increased at a rate of 24.7 percent in 1987 outpacing total employment growth of 11.3 percent. Federal, State, and local governments employ approximately 10,000 persons (Bureau of Reclamation, 1991).

Employment in the agricultural sector has eroded with an average 930 workers in 1988 compared to 1,210 seasonal and nonseasonal workers in 1980. The County's total labor force has a history of steady growth similar to the trend of the Nation. Cyclical and seasonal variations in the wood products industry are significant factors in unemployment.

3.1.21.1.4 Income

In 1989, approximately 65 percent of personal income in Douglas County is received in the form of wages and salary. Dividends, interest, and rent account for 16 percent, and transfer payments are about 19 percent. This is contrasted to 1970 when transfer payments totaled 12 percent and dividends, interest, and rent were 12 percent. The largest single source of transfer payments in Douglas County is payment for retirement and disability. Thirty-eight percent of earned income (wages and salaries) comes from manufacturing industries as shown in Figure 3-21-3. Manufacturing employs 32 percent of the work force (Bureau of Reclamation, 1991).

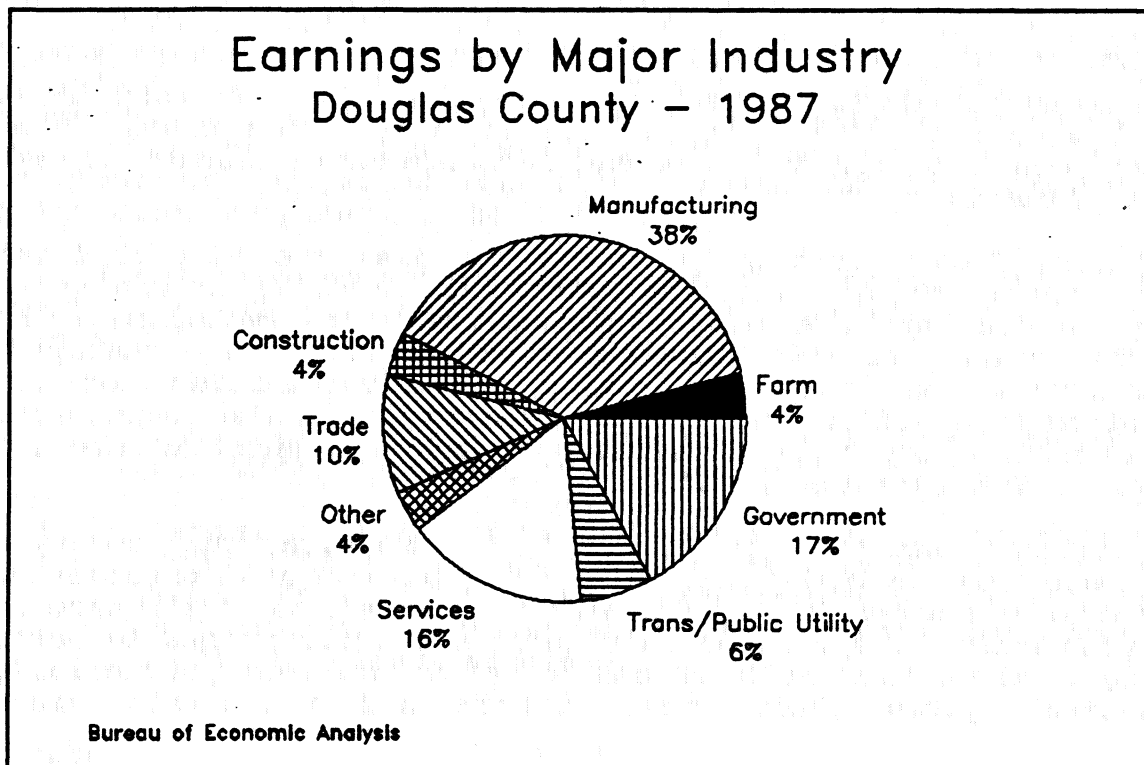


Figure 3-21-3. Earnings by major industry.

and Rice Hill also would benefit from increased availability of domestic water supplies since the pipeline would supply the Yoncalla and Rice Hill area. This would alleviate the problem of reliance on contaminated ground water at Rice Hill and the inadequate water supply at Yoncalla. Rural domestic water users would also experience a reliable water supply (Myers, 1992). The project's reliable water supply would enhance economic development and diversification within the project service area.

3.1.21.2.2.4 Commercial and Sports Anadromous Fisheries

The project would benefit the commercial and sports anadromous fisheries outside of the Elk Creek subbasin. Four anadromous fish species are involved: Winter steelhead, coho, fall chinook, and sea-run cutthroat. Benefits are based on the harvestable production and method of harvest (commercial or sport).

Table 3-21-9 shows an annual value for the ocean commercial harvest resulting from project enhancement efforts. Table 3-21-10 lists the benefit values for the sport fishery. Values derived represent annual benefits under full enhancement efforts.

Table 3-21-9. Annual Commercial Anadromous Fishery Value.

Species	Catch/ Escapement	Net Increase* in Escapement	Percent Commercial	Ocean Commercial Harvest	Average Dressed Weight (lbs)	Ex-Vessel Price	Benefit Value
Coho	3.5:1	1,350	66	3,119	6	\$1.43/lb	\$26,757
Fall Chinook	2.0:1	1,200	75	1,800	16	\$2.44/lb	\$70,272
Total				4,919			\$97,029

* Losses upstream of the dam are considered in the computation of the net increase in escapement.

Source: Myers, 1992.

Table 3-21-10. Annual Sport Anadromous Fishery Value.

Species	Sport Harvest	Percent Ocean	Percent Fresh Water	Angler Days Ocean/Fresh	Ocean Benefit Value \$60/day	Fresh Water Benefit Value \$51/day	Total Sport Value
Winter Steelhead	570	0	100	0/2.9	--	\$ 84,303	\$ 84,303
Coho	1,607	85	15	1.0/2.9	\$ 81,932	35,640	117,572
Fall Chinook	600	85	15	1.0/2.9	30,600	13,311	43,911
Sea-run Cutthroat	200	0	100	0/2.9	--	29,580	29,580
Total					\$ 112,532	\$ 162,834	\$ 275,366

Source: Myers, 1992

The life cycles from smolts to adults vary from one to three years depending upon species. Fisheries benefits, due to increased production and harvest resulting from project enhancement, could take several years to be fully realized. However, project enhancement benefits would be realized in a shorter time frame by planting smolts prior to completion of the project, thereby anticipating the return of harvestable stock the year the project is completed. Planting activity 3 years prior to project completion and 1 or 2 years after project completion could reduce the development lag by several years. This effort would also assure continued project enhancement and result in a major portion of the programmed annual benefits being realized in the first year of project operation. The majority of the harvest of one life cycle would occur during the second and third years after smolt release, depending on the species. The majority of fish populations for this project would consist primarily of winter steelhead and coho. The majority of the coho would have returned by the end of the second year of escapement. Most of the winter steelhead would return in the second year with a small portion returning in the third year following smolt release.

By implementing early planting of smolt, it is estimated that 60 percent of the annual benefits would be realized in year 1 of the project. The remaining 40 percent would be realized in years 3 and 4.

3.1.21.2.2.5 Reservoir Recreation Benefits

The physical constraints of the proposed reservoir site were evaluated to determine its suitability for development. Those physical constraints considered were reservoir access, shoreline slope and summer reservoir operation. Existing roads lead to the site and provide access to either side of the proposed reservoir. The shoreline slope would provide areas suitable for development with some fill work and grading. Recreation facilities are proposed for two sites and would include access roads, caretaker facilities, launch ramps, trolley docks, individual and group picnic sites, car/trailer parking, restrooms, and hiking trails. Facilities would be handicap accessible. Additional facilities such as camping, additional picnic tables and hiking trails could be added if future demand develops. Boat ramps at the sites would accommodate all but the lowest reservoir levels.

The perceived quality of the recreation experience and the number of days of recreation use quantify the value of the benefits. The estimate of boat ramp recreation days counts only those fishing days which involve use of the boat ramp. The fishing days estimated are for non-boat ramp use fishing. This avoids the possibility of double counting benefits for fishing days. The reservoir recreation benefits are summarized in Table 3-21-11, and

show an annual total benefit of about \$342,500.

It is anticipated that with average precipitation, the reservoir would reach capacity by the end of March of the first year. Thus, full use of the recreation facilities would be achieved in the first year after completion of the project.

Table 3-21-11. Annual Reservoir Recreation Benefits.

Facility Based Use

<u>Recreation Facilities</u>	<u>Number of Unit Days</u>	<u>Unit Day Value</u>	<u>Annual Benefit</u>
2 Boat Ramps ^{1/}	10,000	\$6.30	\$ 63,000
52 Picnic Units	20,000	\$6.50	\$130,000
Fishing Days	6,500	\$6.50	\$ 42,250
Subtotal	36,500		\$235,250
<u>Non-Facility Based Use ²⁾</u>	<u>16,500</u>	<u>\$6.50</u>	<u>\$ 107,250</u>
Total	53,000		\$ 342,500

- 1) Assumes east ramp would receive the majority of spring/early summer use, and west ramp would receive moderate spring/early summer and late summer use.
- 2) Sightseeing, hiking, wildlife observation, dispersed picnicking.

Source: Myers, 1992

3.1.21.2.2.6 Reduction of Flood Damage

Flood damage reduction benefits, provided by the Portland District office of the Army Corps of Engineers for the Cooperative Study, are the basis for the following material (Myers, 1992). The majority of flood damages occur within the city of Drain. In the absence of flood control measures, periodic flooding will continue. Damages were estimated for the 2, 10, 50, 100, and 500-year flood events. Damages were estimated for bridges, residential homes and contents, commercial buildings and contents, public buildings and contents, industrial buildings and contents, and agricultural lands. Douglas County provided information on agricultural lands, buildings, and replacement costs for bridges. Structural damage was based on information in the Willamette System Study. The annual flood reduction benefits for the Milltown Hill Dam project is estimated to be \$148,300.

3.1.21.2.2.7 Reduction of Treated Effluent Costs

The Department of Environmental Quality regulates discharge of wastes in Oregon. That agency has required both Drain and Yoncalla to provide facilities for storage of treated effluent during the

low-flow months of the year, when the quality and quantity of streamflows fall below levels that allow for adequate assimilation of treated effluent. Operation of the Milltown Hill Project would result in significantly augmented summer streamflows as releases are made from the reservoir to Elk and Yoncalla Creeks for downstream uses and to enhance aquatic habitat. The resultant improved instream quality and quantity conditions would provide an opportunity for alleviation of the storage requirements on the cities, thereby easing future needs for additional effluent storage capacity, increased treatment capabilities, or both. The economic benefit of this situation has not been evaluated.

3.1.21.2.3 Mitigation of Impacts to Socio-economic Conditions

No significant influx of construction workers is anticipated because of the high unemployment condition in the County, particularly among individuals with construction skills. Presently unemployed workers would be available for project jobs. Similarly, no retail business would be displaced. The County transportation system and other in-frastructure are capable of handling commuting construction workers with no noticeable shift in population among communities.

Mitigation of the people relocation impacts associated with the project would be done in accordance with the "Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Regulations for Federal and Federally Assisted Programs" (49 CFR Part 24). Notice of the Final Rule for these regulations was published in the Federal Register March 2, 1989. The purpose of this rule is to implement the "Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4601 et seq.) with the objective that those affected by Federal and federally-assisted projects are treated fairly and consistently. A fair market price would be paid for all parcels of land acquired. In some instances, where lands are not to be inundated or required for some structural or recreation purpose, it may be possible to negotiate management easements, without displacing the land owner.

3.1.22 Transportation

3.1.22.1 Existing Transportation Conditions

Douglas County's transportation network serves the public well. Interstate-5 traverses the county from north to south. This highway is the main western link between Canada and Mexico. U.S. Highways 38 and 42 are the main east-west arterials. County Road #7 (Elkhead Road) provides 4 miles of paved 2-lane road from Interstate-5 to the west side of the proposed reservoir. County

Road #8 (Scotts Valley Road) provides access to the east side of the proposed reservoir. County Roads #7 and 8 join at a point near the south end of the reservoir. State Highway 38 provides access from I-5 to Drain and Elkton. U.S. Highway 99W provides access from I-5 at Rice Hill to Yoncalla and Drain.

The present traffic volume on Elkhead Road on the east side of the I-5 Freeway interchange is approximately 880 vehicles per day. The traffic volume on Elkhead Road on the west side of the freeway is approximately 610 vehicles per day (pers. comm., Warren Poland, Douglas County).

3.1.22.2 Impacts to Transportation

3.1.22.2.1 Construction Impacts

Most construction workers are expected to be local residents, commuting from Roseburg, 30 miles south of the project area. Most imported workers are expected to reside in Roseburg, Oakland, Yoncalla or Drain. Most construction activities would involve the clearing of the 681-acre reservoir and construction of the dam, so the majority of construction traffic would be on 4 miles of County road #7. Increased maintenance of this road would be required.

County Roads #7 and #8 would be partially relocated and/or upgraded (Figure 2-2). County Road #7, between the north end and south end of the reservoir (about 3 miles), would be relocated and upgraded less than 1/8 mile west of the existing road near 885 feet msl. County Road #8 would be relocated less than 1/8 mile from its present alignment and causeways added across Lane Creek and Elk Creek (Figure 2-2).

During construction, traffic would be allowed to use the existing roads with some minor delays, especially when the pipeline system is constructed at road crossings. The replaced segments of County Roads #7 and 8 would be abandoned after the new relocations were finished. Most of the construction traffic would occur in the reservoir pool area and at the Otten Quarry so no significant impact to public transportation is anticipated during construction.

3.1.22.2.2 Operation Impacts

The projected recreational use at the Milltown Hill Dam is estimated to be 53,000 annual visitor days (See: Section 3.1.17 Recreation). This number of visitors could be expected to produce approximately 15,000 vehicle trips to the reservoir site during an average annual 200 day recreation period. Based on weekly distribution figures from other county park facilities, it is expected that weekend traffic volumes will range from 2 to 4 times

weekday volumes (pers. comm., Warren Poland, Douglas County). Using an average value of 3, the increase in peak weekend traffic volume in the reservoir area would be approximately 287 vehicles per day and the increase in weekday traffic volumes would be approximately 95 vehicles per day.

Access to the reservoir site may be made from north or south on both Elkhead Road and Scotts Valley Road. It is expected the majority of visitors would come from the north by way of Elkhead Road or Scotts Valley Road from the nearby interchange in the I-5 Freeway. Based on a distribution estimate of 75% from the north, the increased traffic at the Freeway interchange would be approximately 71 vehicles per day on weekdays and 215 vehicles per day on the weekends.

The split of recreation traffic at the interchange is expected to be approximately a 50-50% ratio north to south and to be rather uniformly distributed throughout the day. The addition of these recreational traffic volumes, therefore, whether during the weekday or on the weekends is expected to make very little difference in the intersection level of service.

3.1.22.3 Mitigation of Transportation Impacts

The County would perform road maintenance as required during the construction period to reduce delays in travel and for safety purposes. During operation of the project the County would increase maintenance on County Roads #7 and #8 during the spring and summer months when increased recreational use would occur. The increased safety factor due to the relocation of the roads would more than offset any delays or other adverse impacts during construction.

3.1.23 Police Protection

3.1.23.1 Existing Police Protection

Police protection is provided by the County Sheriff's Department. The Department's substation nearest to the area is located in Drain, approximately 8 miles away. In addition, the Oregon State Police has approximately 3 officers in Sutherlin (about 20 miles south) to assist the Sheriff's Department in law enforcement operations, including enforcement of traffic and game laws.

3.1.23.2 Impacts to Police Protection

The recreation sites at the reservoir would probably require a part-time Sheriff's deputy during the recreation season. Estimated annual cost is \$20,000, which includes salary and vehicle use.

3.1.23.3 Mitigation of Police Protection Impacts

The County would absorb all costs of the extra police protection.

3.1.24 Fire Protection

3.1.24.1 Existing Fire Protection

Brush and timber fires are handled by the Douglas County Forest Protective Association, which has its headquarters in Roseburg. Structural fires would be responded to by the Yoncalla Volunteer Fire Department.

3.1.24.2 Impacts to Fire Protection

No significant fire protection impacts are expected as a result of construction and operation of the proposed project. However, the risk of forest fires would increase due to anticipated increased recreational use of lands in the vicinity of the reservoir.

3.1.24.3 Mitigation of Fire Protection Impacts

The reservoir would supply a new and readily available source of water for the suppression of wildfires. In addition, fire hydrants would be located on the pipeline in the service areas.

3.1.25 Schools

3.1.25.1 Existing School Conditions

It is anticipated that most of the construction workers (up to 126) would be housed in the city of Roseburg (population 16,600) approximately 30 miles south of the project area and in the smaller and closer communities of Oakland (population 800), Sutherlin (population 5,042) Yoncalla (population 1,220), and Drain (population 1,740). All have schools grades K through 12.

3.1.25.2 Impacts to School Conditions

During the construction period, the work force would peak at 126 during the third year of construction. It is estimated that approximately one-half of the work force would be married having an average of 2 children per family. Since most (approximately 80 percent) of the expected work force presently reside in the local area, their children's needs for school are already satisfied. The remaining 20 percent of one half of the work force of 126 persons who are married with children and move into the area would require schooling. This would indicate that approximately 25 additional children would require schooling.

It is anticipated that the schooling needs of 25 children would be easily absorbed by the local school districts, and therefore no significant adverse impact would be created. Operation of the project would not impact schools.

3.1.25.3 Mitigation of Impact to Schools

None is planned because no significant impacts are expected.

3.1.26 Health Facilities

3.1.26.1 Existing Health Facilities

The nearest health facility to the proposed dam site is the Drain clinic, approximately 20 minutes travel time by car. Travel time to either of the two hospitals in Roseburg is approximately 45 minutes. These hospitals have a 234 total bed capacity.

3.1.26.2 Impacts to Health Facilities

No significant adverse impacts to existing local health facilities are anticipated from construction or operation activities of the proposed project.

3.1.26.3 Mitigation of Impacts to Health Facilities

None is planned because no significant adverse impacts are expected.

3.1.27 Energy

3.1.27.1 Existing Energy Conditions

There are no electrical or other types of energy production facilities in the Elk Creek subbasin. Other than energy in the form of fossil fuels consumed by homes, automobiles and farm equipment, there are no other consumptive uses.

A high voltage electric transmission corridor transects the proposed reservoir area. A natural gas pipeline parallels Interstate 5 through the subbasin.

3.1.27.2 Impacts to Energy

No existing local source of energy production or consumption would be affected by the proposed project, however large amounts of energy in the form of fossil fuels would be consumed during construction of the project. Large quantities of fuels would be needed for operation of the heavy construction equipment for quarrying, transportation of materials and spoils, road construction, relocation and maintenance, and dam construction. Minor amounts of electrical energy would be needed during the construction phase. Project operation would require minor amounts of fossil fuels and electrical energy. Recreational users of the reservoir would consume additional fossil fuels in the vehicles and boats. No significant impact or energy consumption is expected during construction or operation of the proposed project.

3.1.27.3 Mitigation of Energy Impacts

No mitigation measures are planned.

3.1.28 Indirect Impacts

Direct and indirect impacts have been discussed in previous sections. No distinction was made between the types of impacts. Direct impacts can be identified and quantified easier than indirect impacts that may occur gradually over a longer period of time. Indirect impacts, such as could occur during residential, commercial, and industrial growth, are expected to have only minor impacts on natural resources.

An overview of the existing conditions in the Elk Creek subbasin may help put into perspective the indirect impacts of the project. Elk Creek subbasin occupies 209 square miles. There are three cities in the subbasin. The population sizes are: Yoncalla, 1,220; Drain 1,740; and Elkton 235. It is estimated that an

additional 3,000 people reside in rural areas of the subbasin, including the community of Rice Hill. This would indicate population density of only 30 persons per square mile.

Only the residents of Yoncalla, Drain, and Rice Hill, and the rural residents of Scotts Valley, Yoncalla Valley, and those on farm lands adjacent to the lower Elk Creek would benefit from water distributed during project operation. There would not be project-related impacts to the people, land or land resources in approximately 78 percent of the subbasin. Most of the Elk Creek subbasin is forested and is unoccupied because of State and County land use restrictions, and the occupancy restrictions on the public lands in the subbasin. Population growth in the project-affected areas would happen at a slow rate. The project water releases have already been identified and quantified (937 acre-feet for municipal-industrial use, 9,654 acre feet for irrigation, and 7,737 acre-feet for anadromous fisheries and water temperature control). In addition, to other prior water rights, the State of Oregon also has instream flow rights on Elk Creek. These water release restrictions would place limits on municipal expansion and industrial growth and the resultant public service load in the cities. Although the water supply for municipal and industrial services would increase, the increase (973 acre-feet) is too small to cause significant indirect impacts. Consequently, only minor changes are expected in industrial and commercial diversification, such as those that would stabilize the existing operations, as well as result in a slight increase in activity. The primary goal is to provide a stable water supply.

Expansion of population is expected to be small in these rural areas and the rate of growth is not expected to significantly change. The limited water supply, even with the project, would effectively limit growth. Populations would increase slowly over the years, because there is no indication that an industry with many employees would likely locate in the area. It is more likely the water supply for existing business would stabilize the business, with some expansion, and that only small businesses, with few employees, would locate in either Yoncalla, Drain, or the Rice Hill area due to land-use restrictions.

The County Comprehensive Land Use plan approved by the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development identifies urban growth boundaries for the City of Elkton, City of Drain, and the City of Yoncalla. The community of Rice Hill is a Rural Service Center and has a defined boundary. For development to occur outside the boundaries, land use changes would have to occur through a formal process that considers necessity of the change, the impact of the changes on the livability of the area, and natural resources affected. Growth outside these areas is controlled by resource zoning and parcel size. In a timber resource zone, no homes are allowed; in a farm forest zone, the minimum parcel size for homes is 200 acres; and in exclusive farm

4.0 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

4.1 Introduction

The Bureau of Reclamation and Douglas County have attempted to involve all concerned Federal, State, and local agencies as well as the public throughout the data gathering and analysis processes. Early in the planning process, several issues of concern were raised, and as the process developed, other issues became known. This process has been followed, concerns were addressed as they arose, and all appropriate data were considered in formulating the County's preferred alternative (Table 4-1). In addition, environmental commitments were developed (See: Appendix B). The following discussions summarize the record of consultation, coordination, and public involvement and how the activities were used in the decisions and planning of the project.

Agencies involved in the environmental process include the Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Fish and Wildlife Service prepared a Coordination Act Report and reviewed the Bureau of Reclamation's Status Report and Environmental Analysis. Fish and Wildlife Service comments on the latter and Bureau report of Reclamation responses are in Appendix C.

Contacts made for recreation planning included the Oregon Department of Transportation (Parks and Recreation Division) and the Douglas County Parks Department. Contacts regarding historic and cultural resources included the State Historic Preservation Office and the Douglas County Museum. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers participated in flood studies by reviewing study work and preparing the economic analysis. The Bureau of Land Management was consulted on right-of-way issues on land it manages and is a cooperating agency in preparing this EIS. Consultation with the Bureau of Mines was initiated to obtain an evaluation of the potential for commercial recovery of minerals in and near the project area. The Soil Conservation Service conducted soil classification surveys on the service areas and on the project "take" lands, including the reservoir area. The Geological Survey was consulted regarding ground water availability and quality and ground water movement in the subbasin. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality was notified of the proposed project and provided information. The state of Oregon A-95 Clearing House Process also was utilized (See: Appendix D).

This Section is a chronological summary of consultation and coordination on the following issues:

- Public Involvement
- Water Quality

In addition, Douglas County is developing a Coordinated Resources Management Plan for the Deer Creek subbasin. This project would address flood control and irrigation needs. A 12,000-acre-foot impoundment is anticipated. The County is also actively studying the need for a 12,000 acre-foot impoundment on Gassy Creek to meet needs for future municipal and industrial requirements in the cities of Sutherlin and Oakland, and irrigation requirements along Calapooya Creek. Douglas County believes that such projects including the Milltown Hill project will, cumulatively, increase opportunities for economic diversification by encouraging those industries that have expressed interest in the area, but have been deterred from investing capital, due to the lack of an assured water supply.

3.1.30 Residual and Unavoidable Adverse Impacts

There are residual and unavoidable adverse impacts that would occur during the 3-year construction period and during the operation period.

3.1.30.1 Air Quality, Noise, and Visual Quality

The 3-year construction phase of the project would produce minor, short-term adverse impacts on local air quality. Exhaust emissions from construction vehicles and fugitive dust would decrease air quality in the reservoir area. Noise levels at the dam and quarry site would temporarily increase due to onsite machinery and to vehicles transporting materials. Increased noise levels would also be associated with clearing and grading operations for the relocation and construction of roads where necessary and would extend outside the immediate reservoir vicinity along County Roads #7 and #8 affecting local residents.

Impacts on visual quality include exposed soils and topographic change (especially at the Otten Quarry, located above the high water level), some sedimentation of Elk Creek, presence of large construction machinery and stockpiled materials, piled debris and excavation materials, and rechannelization of Elk Creek through a conduit. Construction and operation would also result in increased human activity in this low-use area this could be objectionable to local residents.

3.1.30.2 Vegetation

Construction of the dam would result in the inundation of 681 acres at the reservoir site. This includes some 260 acres of land in agricultural use (including the home sites), 160 acres of commercial forest land and 173 acres of sparse riparian growth. Additional clearing would be required for the penstock, recreational facilities and access roads to the reservoir and dam,

including County Roads #7 and #8. Loss of the agricultural and timber land and riparian land cannot be mitigated. Loss of agricultural production, however would be offset by increased productivity of lands irrigated by the project.

3.1.30.3 Fish and Wildlife

Wildlife would lose the 681-acres of habitat to be occupied by the reservoir. Less-mobile animals such as small mammals, reptiles, and amphibians would be killed directly during construction and filling of the reservoir. Nesting birds would be directly affected since their habitat would be eliminated. Wildlife displaced from the project area by construction activities and subsequent inundation would compete for food and space on adjacent lands, the net result would be a reduction in wildlife populations roughly equal to the number of animals occupying the inundated acres. This would be partially mitigated by managing the clearing in the upper reservoir to help minimize loss of wildlife habitat.

Development of the reservoir would cause the loss of over 4.5 miles of free-flowing stream environment in upper Elk Creek. This loss would affect the benthic macroinvertebrate and fish communities utilizing the section of Elk Creek inundated by the reservoir pool. The dam would prevent anadromous fish from using this segment of Elk Creek.

3.1.30.4 Social Conditions

Ten households including 26 people would be relocated as a result of the proposed project. This constitutes the greatest unavoidable adverse social impact of the project. This group's quality of life and social well-being would be affected. They are presently affected by the prospect of losing their homes, being extracted from a community they may have been instrumental in building, and dealing with unknown problems of resettlement, possible re-employment, and social re-establishment. Their concerns can be only partially alleviated by monetary compensation.

3.1.30.5 Water Quality

Short-term construction-related impacts on surface water include unavoidable increased turbidity and suspended sediments. These impacts are expected to be temporary and minor, since settling ponds, berming, and filtering would be used to control most sedimentation and turbidity. The potential also exists for petroleum product spills during construction, which could reduce water quality and be toxic to aquatic organisms for short periods of time. To minimize the potential for these occurrences, the contractor would prepare spill control plans.

During its initial years of operation, the reservoir, like any new reservoir, will have reduced water quality due to decomposing organic materials, nutrient leaching from the soil, and erosion. These factors could cause suspended sediment increases, turbidity increases, algal blooms, and dissolved oxygen reductions in the reservoir. These effects would continue downstream for an unknown distance.

The water level in the reservoir would cause a corresponding rise in the existing ground water level in the immediate pool vicinity. This rise in the ground water level could have the potential to adversely affect the stability of the slopes adjacent to the reservoir and could result in minor soil sloughing.

3.1.31 Relationship Between Short-term Uses of the Environment and Long-term Productivity

The short-term uses of the project area are increased construction employment and local economic stimulation. The long-term productivity of the project include:

- Improved anadromous fish production in Elk Creek
- A reliable year-long source of water for municipal, industrial, fish and wildlife, agriculture and recreation
- Improved flood control along Elk Creek
- New warm water and cold water fishery in the reservoir
- Increased agricultural production
- New habitat for waterfowl
- Improved water quality
- A new long-term source of flat water recreation activities
- Increased productivity of wetlands
- Increased opportunities for economic diversity
- Increased secured habitat for the Columbian white-tailed deer.

Providing water for the above uses represents a long-term commitment of a natural resource.

The long-term productivity of agricultural lands would be enhanced by the project through irrigation. Productivity increases on irrigated lands would more than offset productivity lost due to

inundation of agricultural lands in the reservoir area.

The fishery enhancement program represents a long-term commitment of water for augmented streamflows. Fish production in Elk Creek would be enhanced throughout the life of the project. Long-term wildlife production would diminish in the project vicinity (except for waterfowl and raptors) by removal of habitat which would be occupied by the reservoir and appurtenant project facilities.

The productivity of industries that currently run the risk of curtailed operations due to water shortages would be increased over the long term. Similarly, a reliable source of water would allow new industries to be established. The recreation features of the project would result in a long-term increase in recreation opportunities in the area.

Project area residents who live downstream from the dam would likely perceive a reduction in their quality of life due to increased human use of the reservoir, because of the high value they place on the natural beauty of the area, the slow-paced, quiet rural life, and the close personal connections among residents. These values would be further compromised during dam construction by relocation of friends and neighbors, increased traffic, increased noise and dust, and the presence of strangers.

The community of Drain and property owners below the dam would benefit by a slight reduction in the effects of floods on Elk Creek. This would represent a long-term benefit. Reduction in flood levels during high flow months and increased flow in summer would improve water quality during these periods. These represent long-term benefits.

Some residents in the project area could feel a long-term sense of decreased quality of life resulting from increased traffic, noise, presence of recreationists, and the changed appearance of the area. Although these social effects cannot be completely offset, they would be counter-balanced by the quality-of-life improvements in the water service areas. These would include reliable water supply, potential for economic growth, enhanced crop production, reduction of flood losses, and sport fish enhancement. The project would allow continued population growth, unconstrained by limitations of water availability.

3.1.32 Irreversible and Irretrievable Commitment of Resources

Financial resource commitments to a project of this magnitude include primarily the capital loan, interest, labor, materials, and energy used in project construction, operation, and ultimate abandonment. Additional capital, labor, materials, and energy resources would be irretrievably committed in maintaining the

proposed facilities.

The provision of flows for fish habitat maintenance and enhancement would require a firm guaranteed water allotment for that purpose. Commitments to other project functions must remain in an irreversible and irretrievable status to provide a viable project. Any change in any of these commitments for the use of water would severely affect the achievement of these functions.

Soil losses during construction and operation would be irreversible.

The loss of agricultural and timber lands located in the reservoir area would be an irreversible commitment.

Permanent alterations of the landscape would be irreversible commitments of visual and scenic values.

The loss of habitats and individual plants and animals during construction of the reservoir, control building, and access roads would be irreversible and irretrievable.

Any undiscovered archaeological resources inadvertently destroyed or flooded would be irretrievably lost.

3.2 Environmental Consequences of the No Action Alternative

The proposed project area would remain in its present condition if no action was taken. The identified needs of the county and of the residents of the service area would not be realized. In addition, enhancement opportunities for natural resources would not be realized.

The environmental components which would remain unchanged if the project was not constructed are geology, topography, seismicity, soils, mineral and aggregate resources, climate, air quality, vegetation, wetlands, timber, threatened and endangered species, wildlife, noise, cultural resources, recreation, and visual resources.

A summary comparison of the impacts of a no-action alternative and the preferred alternative is shown in Table S-2. The following discussions focus on the impacts on those environmental components which would be affected if the project was not constructed.

3.2.1 Land Use

The land area proposed to be occupied by the dam and reservoir would continue to be used as it is now. No new irrigation development is possible without surface water storage. Lands presently without sufficient sources of water will continue to

suffer from that problem, and the economic potential of the land would not be realized. The agricultural areas in Scotts Valley, Yoncalla Valley, and areas bordering lower Elk Creek would probably continue to be used primarily for livestock production. Such production would continue at present low levels due to the lack of water needed for irrigation. The areas occupied by the towns of Yoncalla, Drain and Elkton would remain the primary urban communities, showing little or no expansion. A small increase in rural homesites would occur.

3.2.2 Public Water Supply

Yoncalla would continue to rely on the diversion of water from Adams Creek. This source is not reliable. Water quality is unsatisfactory, since it is stored in a shallow 100 acre-foot reservoir. There would be no water for the expansion of existing industries or introduction of new industries in Drain, Yoncalla, or the Rice Hill area.

3.2.3 Surface Water Quantity

Summer flows in the lower segments of Elk Creek would continue to decrease as demands for irrigation water increase. Flow decreases would result in water temperature increases and dissolved oxygen decreases. Floods would continue to be an unresolved problem in lower Elk Creek.

3.2.4 Surface Water Quality

Water quality would remain much as it is now. Some minor improvement in suspended sediment and color could result if restrictions on harvesting old growth timber are enforced. Increased demands for surface water would increase with a resultant decrease in water quality due to increased domestic waste discharge expected with slight increases in population.

3.2.5 Ground Water

Slight increases in rural home construction in the project area can be expected in the future. This would further increase the demand for domestic water, resulting in further depletion of ground water in the vicinity of Drain, Yoncalla, and Rice Hill as well as in areas downstream from Drain.

3.2.6 Anadromous Fish Habitat

The fisheries resource would remain much as it is today, since few actions to improve habitat are likely. Low summer flows and

poor instream habitat would continue to limit resident and anadromous fish populations. Decreases in water quality would likely adversely affect fisheries resources.

The upper 4 1/2 mile segment of Elk Creek which would be occupied by the proposed reservoir would remain as habitat for anadromous and resident fish. The lower reaches of Elk Creek and its tributaries would continue to be marginal spawning habitat for anadromous fish, due to low flows and high water temperature during the irrigation season.

3.2.7 Population

The displacement of about 26 persons from their homes in the reservoir area would not be necessary. Without new industries, the population of Drain and Yoncalla would grow slightly, but not as rapidly as Douglas County or the State of Oregon. A slight increase in rural population can be expected in Elk Creek subbasin, since people who prefer the rural quality of life will build homes, and commute to Eugene or Roseburg for their livelihood. A small increase in population may occur from in-migration of retirement-age people. This would probably be offset by the out-migration of younger people looking for livelihood in Roseburg or Eugene, or other metropolitan areas.

3.2.8 Economic Growth

Opportunities for economic growth and diversity in the communities of Drain, Yoncalla, Rice Hill and Elkton would not be realized, due to the lack of water for irrigation and industrial use. These communities would continue to have their economy based on jobs relating to the wood processing industry, which could face further decreases in production in the near and not-so-near future.

Douglas County has placed the Elk Creek subbasin as its first priority among several small water development projects in the County. The County has also indicated that if the preferred alternative cannot be identified as a feasible project then it will place the Milltown Hill storage plan in an inactive status and pursue studies in other tributaries to the Umpqua River. The County would reconsider Elk Creek in the future and determine if conditions had changed sufficiently to warrant a renewed attempt to develop the project. Termination of the study would preclude any significant growth or economic stabilization within the Elk Creek subbasin.

The Federal government is in the process of developing a recovery plan for the threatened Northern spotted owl. The plan could call for a significant decrease in timber harvests on federal lands. Large, old-growth forest areas characteristic of Douglas County will be particularly affected. The anticipated reduction in

timber harvest could result in a decline in forest products production, and Douglas County could likely experience an outmigration of people and high unemployment. Such a situation would reduce County income, increase costs for assistance programs, increase social problems, and intensify the need for economic diversity and stabilization.

A drop in County revenues would make developing an infrastructure to attract new business more difficult. Since 1980, Douglas County has invested over \$19 million of Oregon and California (O&C) timberland revenues in water resource projects. The future availability of O&C revenues for water resource development may be in jeopardy, as these funds may be diverted to provide for other social needs resulting from anticipated high unemployment. If the project is not developed, the existing social problems would not only continue but may worsen as a result of the mandated reductions in timber harvests.

The community of Rice Hill can absorb only a limited amount of additional growth. Growth in the Rice Hill area would occur only if private wells are developed. Ground water in the Rice Hill area is difficult to find in quantities sufficient for domestic needs. Water quality has been a problem.

The City of Yoncalla is currently limiting expansion of its water system. While the city could possibly enlarge its current 100-acre-foot off-stream reservoir and increase the capacity of its Adams Creek pumping plant and pipeline, Adams Creek flows are too uncertain to significantly help the community.

The City of Drain has a water right to store 1,000 acre-feet of water at its Bear Creek reservoir, but site engineering conditions make enlarging the current reservoir unlikely. This situation would limit future growth in Drain.

Some rural domestic growth may occur elsewhere in the subbasin by using local ground-water supplies. However, land use restrictions on subdividing property would limit this type of growth.

3.2.9 Flooding

Periodic flooding would continue in the future. The subbasin would continue to suffer an average of \$205,000 in flood damages annually.

4.0 CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

4.1 Introduction

The Bureau of Reclamation and Douglas County have attempted to involve all concerned Federal, State, and local agencies as well as the public throughout the data gathering and analysis processes. Early in the planning process, several issues of concern were raised, and as the process developed, other issues became known. This process has been followed, concerns were addressed as they arose, and all appropriate data were considered in formulating the County's preferred alternative (Table 4-1). In addition, environmental commitments were developed (See: Appendix B). The following discussions summarize the record of consultation, coordination, and public involvement and how the activities were used in the decisions and planning of the project.

Agencies involved in the environmental process include the Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Bureau of Land Management, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Fish and Wildlife Service prepared a Coordination Act Report and reviewed the Bureau of Reclamation's Status Report and Environmental Analysis. Fish and Wildlife Service comments on the latter and Bureau report of Reclamation responses are in Appendix C.

Contacts made for recreation planning included the Oregon Department of Transportation (Parks and Recreation Division) and the Douglas County Parks Department. Contacts regarding historic and cultural resources included the State Historic Preservation Office and the Douglas County Museum. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers participated in flood studies by reviewing study work and preparing the economic analysis. The Bureau of Land Management was consulted on right-of-way issues on land it manages and is a cooperating agency in preparing this EIS. Consultation with the Bureau of Mines was initiated to obtain an evaluation of the potential for commercial recovery of minerals in and near the project area. The Soil Conservation Service conducted soil classification surveys on the service areas and on the project "take" lands, including the reservoir area. The Geological Survey was consulted regarding ground water availability and quality and ground water movement in the subbasin. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality was notified of the proposed project and provided information. The state of Oregon A-95 Clearing House Process also was utilized (See: Appendix D).

This Section is a chronological summary of consultation and coordination on the following issues:

- Public Involvement
- Water Quality

Table 4-1. Environmental Concerns and Action Taken to Evaluate Concerns for the Proposed Milltown Hill Project.

RESOURCE	CONCERN	ACTION TAKEN TO EVALUATE CONCERNS
Agriculture	Determine acres of agricultural land and Prime and Unique farmlands that would be lost by inundation of the reservoir. Determine location of existing and potential irrigable lands in the service areas.	Conduct soil surveys and land capability classification in the service area and reservoir area to determine acres of Prime and Unique farmlands. Design an irrigation system and schedule which would alleviate present water shortages during irrigation season. Develop water release schedule which would provide for optimum use on irrigable lands.
Air Quality	Determine if construction and operation of the project would adversely affect regional air quality standards.	Obtain federal and state air quality standards, determine if the project is located in a Class I region.
Climate	Identify climatological factors which would affect project construction and operation.	Obtain climatological data, including temperature, rainfall, snowfall, flood patterns.
Commercial Timber	Determine extent of commercial timber resources to be affected by the project.	Survey timber resources within project take line to determine timber ownership, condition, volume and value. Estimate timber-producing lands which would be irretrievably lost due to project construction.
Cultural Resources	Possible inundation of significant historic and prehistoric resources.	Conduct literature search of documented prehistoric and historic activities and structures. Conduct a Class III survey within the project take line. Assess results. Conduct test excavations of several known archeological sites and other probable sites. Consult with SHPO to determine site significance Develop mitigative measures on sites which would be affected by the project.

F: EVALUATE

Table 4-1, continued.

RESOURCE	CONCERN	ACTION TAKEN TO EVALUATE CONCERNS
Fisheries	Dam would block upstream movement of anadromous fish and cause the loss of habitat on 4 miles of mainstem and 2 miles of tributaries for anadromous and resident game and non-game species. Slightly lower project flows than during pre-project winter and spring high flow period. Higher flows of cooler water than during pre-project summer and fall low flow periods. Lower summer water temperatures may affect the habitat of the Umpqua Chub, a Special Status Species	Conduct fisheries and habitat surveys of Elk Creek. Conduct instream flow studies (IFIM) in Elk Creek. Do reservoir modelling to predict water temperatures and flow releases. Do stream temperature modelling to predict water temperature downstream from the reservoir. Analyze stream temperature modelling to determine if project flow temperature would be critical to fish species. Develop enhancement plan for coho, winter steelhead and fall chinook. Develop monitoring plan to evaluate water temperature and enhancement.
Flood Control	Will the project help control periodic flooding in lower Elk Creek.	Estimate possible flood levels at Drain resulting from operation of the project.
Geology, Seismicity	Determine geologic and seismic integrity of damsite and reservoir area.	Research literature and previous studies in area. Investigate damsite foundation to determine rock weathering, jointing, permeability, depth of overburden. Determine subsurface conditions. Conduct seismotectonic study of the area.
Ground Water Availability	Assess local ground water availability, to determine if ground water could be developed as a feasible alternative to the proposed project.	Search records to determine yield of existing wells, examine geological conditions to assess ground water storage capabilities.
Land Use	Conversion of an agriculturally oriented valley to a water storage reservoir.	Determine if this irretrievable action can be mitigated.
Mineral and Aggregate Resource	Determine if the proposed project would affect the mineral and aggregate resources in the project area.	Bureau of Mines conducted a literature search of existing and past mining activities, and areas having mineral and aggregate resources.

F: EVALUATE

Fisheries

Most of the fishery activity in 1987 involved instream flow studies. The reader is referred to the instream flow section for a discussion of those activities.

Wildlife

Discussions continued on mitigation concepts. The idea of developing wetlands in a sub-impoundment at the upper end of the reservoir pool was discussed, and ODFW, FWS, and BR toured the Fern Ridge wildlife area to view management practices potentially relevant to the wetland concept. Due to the lack of unique habitat in the reservoir area, the ODFW regional office in Roseburg, FWS, Douglas County, and BR agreed that negotiating a mitigation package was possible. The ODFW regional office identified some lands that they would consider as possible mitigation for the reservoir. In December, the FWS presented BR and Douglas County with a draft copy of a wildlife mitigation plan.

Cultural Resources

BR received the Douglas County Museum's final report. It awarded a contract to Heritage Research Associates, Inc. for a Class I Survey of the potential reservoir area.

Recreation

In July, BR and ODFW met with Douglas County Parks Department personnel to discuss recreation concepts, particularly as related to wildlife mitigation. The Parks Department subsequently met with the Douglas County Water Resources Survey to discuss recreation planning and land acquisition for recreation at the Milltown Hill site.

1988

Public Involvement

Douglas County conducted an interest survey of potential water users in the area of the gravity pressure pipeline. Douglas County mailed out questionnaires to all those on the tax rolls owning property in the pipeline service area asking if they would be very interested in purchasing water, moderately interested, or not interested. Of the 310 mailings, the County received 302 responses. Of those who responded, 56 percent were very interested, 25 percent moderately

Table 4-1, continued.

RESOURCE	CONCERN	ACTION TAKEN TO EVALUATE CONCERNS
Surface Water Quality.	Determine if existing surface water quality meets the EPA criteria for drinking water and irrigation.	Obtain surface water quality data from Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. Obtain samples of surface water from Elk Creek to determine mercury content. Evaluate stability of mine tailings. Determine locations of major discharges of domestic waste water. Model reservoir water temperatures to determine temperatures of release water. Model downstream change in water temperature under project operations. Prepare application for Section 401 certification and submit to DEQ.
Surface Water Quantity	Determine if anticipated water yield would meet the water demand in the service area. Determine if County can provide at least 5,000 acre-feet of storage for fish enhancement.	Estimate water needs of potential rural and urban users. Estimate monthly and annual water yield of the impoundment.
Timber	How much commercial timber land, volume, and value would be affected by the project.	Determine commercial timber acres, volume and value inundated by the project. Determine commercial timber acres, volume and value to be affected within the project take-line.
Topography	Provide accurate topographic data and elevations for design information.	Obtain aerial photography to develop topographic maps at 1" = 100 ft, with 10-ft contour interval, conduct land surveys.
Trace Elements	Will the reservoir develop concentrations of mercury unsafe for public drinking water and public consumption of fish.	Assess mercury concentration in Lane Creek and Elk Creek near the Elkhead Mine. Determine if geologic formations in the reservoir area would expose high levels of cinnabar. Locate and map mine tailings in relation to reservoir take-line.
Transportation	Would construction and operation of the project affect existing transportation conditions.	Estimate current vehicle traffic on County Roads #7 and 8. Estimate need to relocate roads due to project construction. Estimate vehicle traffic during construction and operation of the project.

F: EVALUATE

Table 4-1, continued.

RESOURCE	CONCERN	ACTION TAKEN TO EVALUATE CONCERNS
Vegetation	Determine types and extent of vegetation which would be inundated by the project. Determine extent of wetlands which would be affected by the project. Identify T&E plant species.	Field type and calculate acreages of vegetative types. Identify wetlands. Field check reservoir area and service areas for T&E plant species.
Visual Resource	Changes in visual quality of a portion of Elk Creek valley occupied by the reservoir.	Develop recreation sites with landscaped features. Landscape realigned roads, causeways.
Wetlands	Do jurisdictional wetlands exist in the project area.	Soil Conservation Service, Fish and Wildlife Service surveyed the project area. The agencies recommended actions to mitigate any loss or degradation of wetlands.
Wildlife	Determine the impacts of the project on wildlife and their habitat. Determine if T&E Species (Columbian White-tailed Deer, Northern Spotted Owl, Bald Eagle) would be effected.	Identify species of wildlife most likely to be affected by reservoir inundation. Determine extent of habitat loss due to reservoir inundation. Develop measures to mitigate impacts to wildlife, both on-site and off-site. Survey the area surrounding the project to determine the existence of the spotted owl. Develop methodology for protecting Columbian white-tailed deer.

F: EVALUATE

- Flood Control
- Environmental Coordination
- Threatened and Endangered Species
- Fisheries
- Instream Flows
- Stream Temperature
- Wildlife
- Wetlands
- Cultural Resources
- Recreation

4.2 Chronology of Consultation and Coordination

1985

Public Involvement

On November 26, the Douglas County Commission and Bureau Reclamation (BR) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) initiating Northern Douglas County Cooperative Water Resources Study. The study covered the need of further exploring potential damsites in the Calapooya and Elk Creek subbasins in northern Douglas County. The MOU defined each agency's role in the study. A multidisciplinary team was formed which included staff members from both agencies. A plan for the study was formulated. Each team member was assigned one or more environmental or engineering components of the study. Each member would develop an "appendix" which would be incorporated into an environmental assessment of the project.

The signing occurred at a public meeting of the commission. The Commissioners and BR held a short press conference in conjunction with the signing. BR mailed the notice of initiation of the study to the media, federal and state agencies, and groups with a known interest in BR activities. Responses to the notice of initiation were received from the Oregon Water Resources Department (WRD), Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development, and the Douglas County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).

Flood Control

Upon receipt of BR's notice of initiation of a study in Elk Creek, the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development contacted BR expressing its concern over flooding along Elk Creek. The agency offered its records for the flood control analysis.

Upon receipt of BR's notice of initiation of a study in Elk

Creek, the SWCD contacted BR to express its concerns over flooding problems along Elk Creek. The SWCD noted that it was involved in flood control activity along Elk Creek.

Environmental Coordination

In December, BR conducted an orientation trip for Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and Bureau of Land Management (BLM). Shortly after the trip, BR requested a planning aid letter (PAL) from the FWS for input into a preliminary findings memorandum (PFM).

Instream Flows

The SWCD responded to the notice of study initiation by stating its concern over the need to improve instream flows in Elk Creek to benefit irrigation, fish, and wildlife.

1986

Public Involvement

Douglas County held a public information meeting on January 7 in Drain. The County discussed the study, however most of the comments from local residents involved SWCD flood control activities along Elk Creek in Drain.

Water Quality

Naturally occurring deposits of heavy metals are common in portions of Douglas County, including the Elk Creek basin. Of particular concern to the project is the abandoned Elkhead Cinnabar Mine near the east edge of the reservoir site. BR met with the mine caretaker in the early spring to tour the mine area and make arrangements for future access, if needed. BR identified sampling sites on this tour. Water samples were subsequently taken from the mine area and immediately downstream from the mine site.

In the summer, BR contacted the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regarding wastewater treatment facilities in the basin and the potential for using project releases to reduce treatment costs. This potential was very minimal.

In the late summer, BR and the County determined that fish tissue sampling for mercury and other heavy metals would help

answer the question regarding contamination from the Elkhead Mine. The County consulted with ODFW and FWS on this approach.

Flood Control

Douglas County consulted with Corps of Engineers (Corps) regarding flood control data and analysis needed for the Elk Creek studies. Contacts were with study staff involved with a potential storage project in southern Douglas County. BR also contacted the Corps regarding flood analysis on Elk Creek. Comparison of discussions indicated that the County and BR were dealing with two different parts of the Corps' organization. BR sent a formal request for assistance to the Corps in November asking for a flood control benefit analysis.

FWS, Douglas County, and BR visited the confluence of Billy Creek and Elk Creek in December to look at a reported problem with the flow of Billy Creek that increased flooding in Drain. The field review identified potential wildlife impacts from re-routing the Billy Creek outflow.

Environmental Coordination

ODFW and FWS worked on the input needed for the PFM. The FWS sent the draft PFM to BR on March 29.

BR received a notification from BLM of its Resource Management Planning activity in the Elk Creek area in September. BR sent a letter requesting consultation on its planning.

BR requested a planning aid letter (PAL) from the FWS with a completion time in the fall of 1986. The County provided photo and mapping for the PAL. BR received the PAL in December.

Instream Flow

Douglas County provided previously performed instream flow results to NMFS and FWS. Review by these agencies indicated a need to perform new instream flow studies. Further discussions in a joint meeting indicated that the basic Instream Flow Incremental Methodology (IFIM) data had been recorded in a modified method, and the data would be suitable if it were reworked to a more suitable format. The agencies hoped to rerun the IFIM studies using the available data, but a check showed that the original computer files were destroyed and rerunning the model would require recoding and reentering the data. The fishery agencies provided a tentative set of

instream flows based on the available IFIM analysis in the FWS PAL of December 8.

Discussions in June with WRD indicated the state had never assigned economic benefits to improved instream flows for water quality purposes. WRD indicated that the Water Resources Commission would support storage for providing minimum flows in Douglas County.

Threatened and Endangered Species

FWS provided BR with a list of Threatened and Endangered Species.

Stream Temperatures

It was decided that stream temperature projections for Elk Creek would be done by extrapolating current temperature data from the Galesville project, since the only temperature readings on Elk Creek were taken at the Elkhead gage, located 1 mile downstream from the Milltown Hill site. Douglas County provided the Galesville data to FWS.

Wildlife

The FWS prepared a planning aid memo (PAM) on April 29 for BR's preliminary findings memorandum of May 15. The PAM prepared provisional concepts of impacts and potential mitigation to wildlife, as a result of construction and operation of the reservoir. Douglas County and FWS met late in the year to discuss mitigation concepts.

Cultural Resources

The Douglas County museum prepared a report on historical and cultural resources in the study area. The report included an inventory of standing structures that might be eligible for listing in the National Register. This report provided background for the Class I Survey.

Recreation

BR met with Douglas County Parks Department staff regarding recreation problems and needs in the study area. The county agreed that despite current SCORP projections, construction of a reservoir in the Milltown Hill area would result in increased recreation use.

1987

Public Involvement

BR briefed the Umpqua Water Resources Development Association on June 25 regarding the study. At a public meeting in Sutherlin on August 18, a member of the Douglas County Commission predicted that the reservoir at Milltown Hill would begin filling in 1991. The County held public meetings on December 16 with the Water Advisory Committee and the Umpqua Water Resources Development Association.

Water Quality

In early winter, the FWS agreed to have its laboratory perform the fish tissue sampling. However, internal contacts within the FWS indicated that the samples would not receive the rapid processing that the study needed. As a result, the FWS agreed to split the fish tissue sample and allow the County to contract an analysis on half the sample with the Umpqua Research Laboratory. ODFW and the FWS collected the fish tissue samples. Douglas County provided laboratory results to ODFW in late July. BR provided the results to FWS in early August.

Flood Control

The Corps responded to BR's request in January. The Corps promised a scope of work that would allow them to review the county flood reduction analysis and prepare an estimate of benefits. The Corps' scope of work arrived in February. Douglas County sent a letter to the Corps in March asking that they provide the needed assistance in the flood control study.

Douglas County provided the Corps with flood control data that it had gathered based on its earlier discussions with the Corps. The Corps reviewed the data and determined that additional data was needed. The Corps outlined the data needs and completed the study. Douglas County performed field work to survey structures and perform flood routing studies. BR provided flood routing studies through the proposed reservoir. Douglas County contracted with a consulting firm to complete the survey of structures.

Environmental Coordination

Most of the direct coordination involved technical analysis in other parts of this section of the report. BR informed FWS that it would be wanting analysis of two reservoir sizes at the Milltown Hill site.

Instream Flows

In the spring, BR, ODFW, and FWS met to discuss the tentative set of instream flows. The flows appeared too high considering the basin's hydrologic capability. The agencies decided that additional flow studies were needed and that providing flows for fall chinook should be eliminated. Subsequent discussions suggested that the IFIM be rerun using the existing data if possible. Douglas County agreed to contract for a reanalysis of the IFIM studies. The FWS provided language assistance to the County in preparing a scope of work for the IFIM reanalysis. Douglas County selected Campbell-Craven Environmental Consultants to perform the analysis.

ODFW reviewed the cross-section locations used in the IFIM study and confirmed that they were representative. The hydrologic record was extended for the IFIM study and with-project flows for reservoirs sized at 36,000 and 50,000 acre-feet were provided to the consultant. The agencies decided to eliminate small mouth bass and cutthroat trout from the analysis but to include fall chinook at a future time. A field trip was held in September to confirm transect weightings.

The agencies met again in the fall to discuss the progress of the IFIM re-analysis. ODFW, NMFS, and FWS helped Douglas County consultant select site specific suitability curves for Elk Creek. The group agreed to use the one-flow technique and to have the County perform a field review of Elk Creek habitat with the intent of dividing one of the reaches into two. ODFW, NMFS, and FWS chose the substrate coding for use in the modeling. The group decided to reduce the period of record to 30 years to use daily rather than monthly means in the modelling. Douglas County consultant re-ran the IFIM with the new data and the agencies met again in the fall to review the model output.

Threatened and Endangered Species

In June, BR made a request for a list of threatened and endangered species. The FWS responded that the list provided in the 1986 planning aid memorandum was still valid. BR then prepared a biological assessment in which it determined that the project would not adversely impact either bald eagles or Columbian white-tailed deer.

Fisheries

Most of the fishery activity in 1987 involved instream flow studies. The reader is referred to the instream flow section for a discussion of those activities.

Wildlife

Discussions continued on mitigation concepts. The idea of developing wetlands in a sub-impoundment at the upper end of the reservoir pool was discussed, and ODFW, FWS, and BR toured the Fern Ridge wildlife area to view management practices potentially relevant to the wetland concept. Due to the lack of unique habitat in the reservoir area, the ODFW regional office in Roseburg, FWS, Douglas County, and BR agreed that negotiating a mitigation package was possible. The ODFW regional office identified some lands that they would consider as possible mitigation for the reservoir. In December, the FWS presented BR and Douglas County with a draft copy of a wildlife mitigation plan.

Cultural Resources

BR received the Douglas County Museum's final report. It awarded a contract to Heritage Research Associates, Inc. for a Class I Survey of the potential reservoir area.

Recreation

In July, BR and ODFW met with Douglas County Parks Department personnel to discuss recreation concepts, particularly as related to wildlife mitigation. The Parks Department subsequently met with the Douglas County Water Resources Survey to discuss recreation planning and land acquisition for recreation at the Milltown Hill site.

1988

Public Involvement

Douglas County conducted an interest survey of potential water users in the area of the gravity pressure pipeline. Douglas County mailed out questionnaires to all those on the tax rolls owning property in the pipeline service area asking if they would be very interested in purchasing water, moderately interested, or not interested. Of the 310 mailings, the County received 302 responses. Of those who responded, 56 percent were very interested, 25 percent moderately

interested, and 0.6 percent thought the project was a bad idea.

A Water Advisory Board meeting was held in Yoncalla in December. The study status was discussed as were the results of the interest survey and Douglas County's update of its Water Plan.

Flood Control

BR mailed the last of the hydrologic data to the Corps in July. The Corps checked the hydrologic studies and completed the economic analysis. The Corps presented its analysis in December.

Environmental Coordination

In April, the FWS sent BR a draft planning aid memorandum (PAM) and a mitigation plan for Milltown Hill. BR, ODFW, Douglas County, and FWS discussed the concepts presented in the PAM. The PAM provided the initial discussion point for preparing the final mitigation plan.

Fisheries

The agencies began discussing a methodology for deriving fish benefits from the IFIM studies. Consultations between Douglas County's consultant, Campbell-Craven Environmental Consultants, who performed the IFIM studies and ODFW resulted in an agreement to use a habitat quality index for deriving benefits. The County's benefit analysis was sent to the cooperating agencies for review in March.

Instream Flows

Douglas County consultant prepared a final report on the IFIM study. Both the FWS and ODFW provided written comments on the report. At this point, the agencies had agreed upon the instream flows. The issue of temperature remained to ensure that the extra flows would provide improved habitat.

Stream Temperatures

Douglas County contracted with Campbell-Craven Environmental Consultants to review temperature operations at Galesville as part of the Galesville monitoring program. The consultant found that Corps of Engineers modelling of Galesville did not

agree with observed reservoir or release temperatures. This concerned the consultant regarding use of extrapolation of Galesville temperatures to Elk Creek.

Wildlife

ODFW, the County, and BR met to discuss the draft wildlife mitigation plan. At this meeting, the state ODFW office expressed its desire for using the Habitat Evaluation Procedure (HEP) and onsite mitigation. Due to the nature of the habitat at the reservoir site, the agencies agreed that a modified HEP was appropriate. A HEP team was formed, and the HEP field work was performed in the fall by FWS, ODFW, and Douglas County.

Cultural Resources

BR received Heritage Research Associates' draft final report on the Class I Survey.

1989

Public Involvement

Douglas County conducted 8 water advisory board meetings in 1989, and the Milltown Hill project was an agenda topic in each of them. One meeting was held in Drain on February 15. About 70 local residents attended and participated in a question and answer session on the project. The board held another meeting in Yoncalla on December 20. Topics at the meeting included the irrigated land base around Yoncalla and procedures for purchasing properties needed for the reservoir. Several residents in the reservoir area wanted to sell their property and wanted the process to move more rapidly.

The Business and Industry Section Joint Chambers of Commerce held a "Project Leadership" meeting on December 14. The Milltown Hill project was discussed for about 30 minutes.

Water Quality

BR and Douglas County decided that additional mercury analysis was needed to define the extent of possible contamination from the Elkhead Mine. A series of sites were selected for soil sampling and subsequent analysis of heavy metals. The U.S. Geological Survey laboratory in Denver, Colorado performed the analyses for BR.

Prime and Unique Farmlands

The Soil Conservation Service, in compliance with the Farmland Protection Act, Public Law 97-98, conducted a soil survey upstream of the damsite. Subsequently, the Soil Conservation Service provided a list of soils. Based on the soil map, 115 acres of prime farmlands were identified, no unique farmlands were identified.

1992

Public Involvement

Public Hearings

January 20, 1992 Public Hearing, Drain, Oregon. A total of 30 people attended this meeting. After the Bureau of Reclamation explained that the purpose of the meeting was to accept oral or written comments on the adequacy of the DEIS, 6 persons submitted oral comments on the projects. Comments were generally supportive of the project. Speakers addressed the local benefits that would result from the project: improved municipal and domestic water supply and water quality, flood control, improved irrigation water management, municipal and industrial growth, enhancement of fisheries habitat, and new flat water recreation opportunities.

No comments addressed the adequacy of the DEIS.

January 21, 1992, Public Hearing, Roseburg, Oregon. A total of 22 people attended this meeting. After the Bureau of Reclamation explained to the attendees that the purpose of the meeting was to accept comments on the adequacy of the DEIS, 5 persons submitted oral comments on the project. Most speakers indicated there is a need for the project to improve fisheries habitat, to improve water quality, to satisfy existing water rights, to control flooding, and to provide for controlled seasonal distribution of surface water.

No comments were made concerning the adequacy of the DEIS.

Written Comments

A total of 17 letters were received, commenting on the DEIS. Comments were recieved from:

Creek were about 7 degrees Fahrenheit too high.

Wildlife

Analysis of the HEP field work was completed. A review of the HEP results indicated that the group wanted to move away from the sub-impoundment concept and that mitigating big game habitat on-site did not appear feasible. Mitigation through downstream riparian habitat improvement was discussed.

In the fall of 1989, BR suggested that the agencies needed to consider wildlife impacts likely from other project actions such as constructing the pipeline and irrigating land. These actions were not considered to have large impacts as the pipeline would be placed along existing road rights-of-way and the land base for irrigation is already harvested on a dry land basis.

Discussions continued between the ODFW state and regional offices on the desirability of off-site mitigation. Late in the year, Douglas county suggested the potential of securing Columbian white-tailed deer habitat in other parts of the county as mitigation for big game at the reservoir site. Due to the recovery plan, the white-tailed deer population continues to increase in other areas in Douglas County and has grown to such an extent that significant depredation problems are occurring. ODFW cannot manage the species due to its listing. Secured habitat is needed in order to de-list and manage the species.

Wetlands

BR and Douglas County met with staff from the Roseburg Office of the Soil Conservation Service (SCS). The SCS agreed that some project lands could potentially be classified as jurisdictional wetlands. SCS agreed to perform mapping of hydric soils in the potential irrigated area. BR made a formal request to the state SCS office requesting assistance in mapping the wetlands. Jurisdictional wetland classification involves a determination of hydric soils, present of potential growth of hydrophytic vegetation, and hydrology criteria. The SCS could not promise assistance beyond mapping hydric soils. The ODFW and FWS were included in discussions with the SCS on wetland mapping.

Realizing that formal mapping of jurisdictional wetlands in Douglas County was not scheduled until 1991 or possibly 1992, BR provided a botanist and biologist to check the hydric soil areas for possible inclusion as jurisdictional wetlands. BR

and the FWS also agreed that the hydric soils areas should also receive a HEP in order to determine wildlife impacts.

Cultural Resources

BR awarded a contract to Heritage Research Associates, Inc. for a Class III Survey.

1990

Public Involvement

Douglas County invited State of Oregon environmental groups for a tour of and briefing on the potential project on February 26. The County mailed 36 invitations, but no one showed.

Other public involvement included a Douglas County presentation on the project to the annual meeting of the Douglas County Farmer's Cooperative on March 29. Between 125 and 150 county residents attended the meeting. In July, Douglas County contacted all residents living within the potential pipeline service area to provide a last chance to express their interest in receiving project water. This data was needed to confirm designs.

Environmental Coordination

Douglas County contacted BLM regarding road easements. The County wanted the easements to construct roads that it wanted to use as it continued investigations at the proposed dam site. BLM informed the County and BR that it considered the County proposed actions as project related, and it would not grant the easements until the EIS was finished and a decision document was issued by BR. BLM subsequently requested cooperating agency status on the Milltown Hill EIS. BR responded to BLM's request by describing the status report process that the County and BR were following.

BR had the FWS provide a draft and, later, a final copy of the Coordination Act Report (CAR) to BLM. The County continued coordination with BLM on access and developed an erosion control plan for the access area.

BR and County provided descriptive information needed by the FWS to prepare the CAR. The FWS provided BR with a draft CAR on May 22. An agency meeting was held in Portland, Oregon on

June 26 to discuss the CAR. Discussions at this meeting included the adequacy of the draft CAR with particular emphasis placed on detailing reservoir operations and instream flows, instream water temperatures, fishery monitoring plans, and wildlife mitigation. BR subsequently provided the FWS with maps of wetland and irrigated areas, land classification standard, and a project location map. BR received the final CAR on August 23.

BR produced a draft Status and Environmental Report of the project December 1. On December 12, Douglas County issued a Notice of Intent, to BR, to apply for federal financing of the Milltown Hill project under the Small BR Projects Act of 1956, as amended. Copies of the Notice of Intent were sent to FWS, EPA, Governor of Oregon, Oregon A-95 Clearinghouse (See: Appendix D), Water Resources Department, Department of Environment Quality, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Forestry, Division of State Lands, Department of Parks and Recreation, Department of Transportation.

Threatened and Endangered Species

BR and the agencies agreed that the listing and biological assessment are out of date. BR will update these at the next stage of the study.

Fisheries

The agencies met to discuss the draft FWS Coordination Act Report (CAR) which included the fishery analysis. The group decided that additional temperature modeling was needed, as was a monitoring plan. The group agreed upon a summer data gathering and analysis program for the temperature modelling. The group also outlined an acceptable monitoring program.

Instream Flows

The FWS prepared its draft CAR which included instream flow data. ODFW and NMFS questioned that the project could deliver the stated instream flows. Douglas County provided revised operation studies that demonstrated the project's ability to provide the stated instream flows.

Stream Temperatures

BR and the County met with the FWS early in the winter. The County had contracted with an engineer to perform additional modelling. The new modelling was unable to resolve

calibration problems in the lower river. Several reasons for the discrepancy were considered including marine air effects, river shading, and the predominance of large pools in the lower river.

Wildlife

The Columbian white-tailed deer recovery team met in January to consider the county's proposal to secure white-tailed deer habitat. Team members included representatives from ODFW, FWS, and the Washington Department of Wildlife. Secured habitat totalling 3,500 acres is required for de-listing and 671 acres of this could be credited to the Milltown Hill reservoir. Securing white-tailed deer habitat would also secure habitat for black-tailed deer and other species associated with riparian and oak woodlands.

A modified HEP was performed on lands that would be irrigated. The primary concern in this HEP involved seasonal wetlands.

Based on the HEP results and securing white-tailed deer habitat, ODFW, FWS, the County, and BR were able to prepare a detailed mitigation plan. The plan included mitigation for all potential project impacts to wildlife. All plan mitigation would be on-site with the exception of securing white-tailed deer habitat.

Wetlands

The HEP analysis evaluated adverse impacts on approximately 28 acres of wetlands. The County, BR, ODFW, and FWS determined that wetlands could be mitigated on-site. Mitigation would consist of improvements to an abandoned off-site log pond and development of wetlands in the upper end of the reservoir.

The mitigation plan does not mitigate for jurisdictional wetlands that may be identified at a future date. The project will include a sinking fund to pay for drainage of some irrigated lands, but any lands subsequently identified as jurisdictional wetlands will not receive project drainage. The wildlife evaluation did not consider any wetland drainage effects since drainage is for agricultural lands and not wetlands. No project drainage or change in agricultural practices would occur to negatively affect jurisdictional wetlands at the time the water service contract is negotiated. This would be enforced by County with a wetland protective clause in the water service contract between the County and individual water user.

Cultural Resources

Based on preliminary survey results, BR requested site numbers for 3 locations in the potential reservoir area from the State Historic Preservation Office in February. BR received Heritage Research Associates' draft final report on the Class III Survey.

Recreation

The Douglas County Parks Department gave the Douglas County Water Resources Survey a report presenting recreation concepts for the Milltown Hill dam and reservoir. The report included recreation uses, designated recreation areas, and possible development at each recreation site.

Prime and Unique Farmland

The Soil Conservation Service provided the Bureau of Reclamation information that there are no prime and unique farmlands in the project service area. The soils upstream of the damsite had not been classified, so information on the presence of prime and unique farmlands for this area would not be available until 1991.

1991

Consultation and Coordination

On January 22, the Oregon State Clearinghouse sent Douglas County copies of State agencies' comments on the County's December 12, 1990 Notice of Intent. Comments were received from the following agencies: Department of Forestry, State Historic Preservation Office, Division of lands, Department of Fish and Wildlife, Water Resources Department. Comments from the above agencies will be addressed in the Environmental Report.

On January 28, a meeting was held in Roseburg, attended by Douglas County, BLM, and BR. The County advised BLM of its December 12, 1990 Notice of Intent to apply for federal financing of the project and gave an update on project design.

Threatened and Endangered Species

On February 28, BR requested a list of threatened and endangered (T&E) plant and animal species from FWS, and designated Campbell-Craven responsible for writing the Section

7 biological assessment.

On April 19, FWS furnished Campbell-Craven a list of T&E plant and animal species that may be present in the project area.

On April 28, Campbell-Craven initiated a survey of Northern spotted owls in the project area and vicinity.

On May 1, 1991, FWS published in the Federal Register a proposed determination of critical habitat of the Northern spotted owl. All lands in Township 23S., R.4W., Willamette Meridian, including all proposed "take lands" for the reservoir have been listed as critical habitat in the publication. Comments will be received until June 5, 1991. A revised initial habitat proposal will be published 60 days later. Public comments on the revised proposal will be received for 60 days.

On August 22, Campbell-Craven reported on the survey of the Northern spotted owl. No owls were sighted or heard within 1.2 miles of the proposed dam site.

On August 11, Campbell-Craven completed a Biological Assessment of the project, according to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973. The Biological Assessment was sent to the Bureau of Reclamation for review.

On August 13, the Fish and Wildlife Service published in the Federal Register (Vol 56, No 156), a revised proposed rule of Critical Habitat for the Northern spotted owl. No federal, state, county or private lands within the project "take line" have been designated as critical habitat (Page 40070). There is a 60-day public comment period. The Fish and Wildlife Service will publish a final critical habitat rule within 60 days after close of the public comment period.

On December 12, the Fish and Wildlife Service responded to the Bureau of Reclamation's November 1, 1991 Biological Assessment of Potential Effects of the Project on Listed and Candidate Pland and Annual Species. The FWS concurred with the Bureau's assessment that the project would not adversely affect the Columbian white-tailed deer, Bald eagles, peregrine falcon or Northern spotted owl.

The FWS could not properly address the Umpqua chub, northwestern pond turtle or rough allocarya (unlisted candidate species) due to inadequate population information. Additional surveys are needed.

Prime and Unique Farmlands

The Soil Conservation Service, in compliance with the Farmland Protection Act, Public Law 97-98, conducted a soil survey upstream of the damsite. Subsequently, the Soil Conservation Service provided a list of soils. Based on the soil map, 115 acres of prime farmlands were identified, no unique farmlands were identified.

1992

Public Involvement

Public Hearings

January 20, 1992 Public Hearing, Drain, Oregon. A total of 30 people attended this meeting. After the Bureau of Reclamation explained that the purpose of the meeting was to accept oral or written comments on the adequacy of the DEIS, 6 persons submitted oral comments on the projects. Comments were generally supportive of the project. Speakers addressed the local benefits that would result from the project: improved municipal and domestic water supply and water quality, flood control, improved irrigation water management, municipal and industrial growth, enhancement of fisheries habitat, and new flat water recreation opportunities.

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No comments were made concerning the adequacy of the DEIS.

Written Comments

A total of 17 letters were received, commenting on the DEIS. Comments were recieved from:

Albert D. Applegate Jr., Mayor, City of Yoncalla
Peter Graff, C.C.D. Business Development Corporation
George Winterbotham
Dale Besset
Randy Crockett
Martha O. Pagel, Senior Policy Advisor for Natural
Resources
Rick Bastasch, Oregon Water Resources Department
Chuck Craig, Oregon Department of Agriculture
William L. Parks, Oregon Division of State Lands
Ray Cranston, Oregon Department of Transportation
David Stere, Oregon Department of Forestry
Stephanie Burchfield, Department of Fish and
Wildlife
Merritt E. Tuttle, National Marine Fisheries Service
W.B. Paynter, Department of the Army Corps of
Engineers
Richard L. Winters, National Park Service
Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ronald A. Lee, Environmental Protection Agency

The letters and Bureau of Reclamation comments are listed in Appendix G.

Consultation and Coordination

As a result of cultural resource surveys made in the project area in 1990 and 1991, 3 archeological sites were discovered and numerous undiscovered sites were considered present. During January and February 1992, consultations were started with SHPO to define a study plan for exploratory testing to find undiscovered sites. After exploratory testing, formal testing will occur to define areas where data recovery would occur. Formal testing is scheduled for 1992. In April 1992, SHPO was consulted about the eligibility and appropriate mitigation of a prehistoric site that will be affected by construction scheduled for fall 1992. In May, the SHPO concurred that the site is eligible to the Register, and site a mitigation agreement. Consultations were then immediately started in the Advisory Council about the mitigation plan for that site.

Douglas County applied to the Eugene District office, BLM for a Special Use Permit, to use rock from the Hobart Quarry. BLM would develop an environmental assessment of the County's proposal.

Fisheries

After consultation with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, increases in numbers of fish that could be expected as a result of project enhancement were revised.

Threatened and Endangered Species

In January 1992, the Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) published a Final Ruling in the Federal Register regarding critical habitat for the Northern spotted owl habitat.

Consultation with FWS (pers. comm., Allison Banks, FWS, March 20, 1992 and May 6, 1992) confirmed that the nearest critical habitat was in unit OR-23. This unit is not within the project take area.

Project Pre-construction, Construction, and Operation Schedule Changes

As a result of comments received from federal and state agencies, a revised schedule was devised to reflect pre-construction activities, construction activities, and operation activities. These activities would involve the development of plans for mitigating adverse project impacts during construction and operation. Plans for enhancement of biological conditions would also be developed. A series of monitoring programs would be devised to assess project effects on various resources, such as wildlife, fisheries, water temperatures, water quality and quantity, wetlands, and candidate threatened and endangered species.

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5.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

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Thayne Coulter, Bureau of Reclamation	Socio-economics
Richard Craven, Campbell-Craven,	Project Management, Fisheries, Stream Temperatures
Tonya Dummert, Douglas County	Graphics and AutoCad
Michael Dunn, Bureau of Mines	Minerals and Aggregates
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Project Loan
Application Report

Drainage

Water Quality,
Temperature Modelling

Word Processing

Spotted Owl Surveys

Land Classification/
Soils

Water Quantity/
Surface Water

Word Processing

Socio-economics

Energy, Land Use,
Visual Resources,
Noise, Air Quality,
Wildlife, Soils,
Ground Water,
Engineering

Project Coordinator

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- Reasonable care will be taken during construction of cofferdams or diversion dams to prevent increased turbidity or siltation in Elk Creek.
- To the extent possible, machinery for instream construction will be operated from the streambank, not in the stream.
- To the extent possible, disturbance of the streambed will be kept to a minimum, and the streambed will be returned as nearly as possible to its original condition or better outside the reservoir.
- Excavated materials will not be stockpiled or deposited near or on streambanks, steep slopes, wetlands, or other watercourse perimeters where they could be washed away by high water or storm runoff or encroach upon the watercourse itself.
- Contractors will be required to use such methods and devices as are reasonably available to ensure that any waste waters discharged into surface waters will be essentially free of settleable material.
- Contractors will be required to comply with all State and Federal laws and regulations regarding the control and abatement of water pollution. The County has included a Clean Air and Water Certification in the Loan Application attesting that no facilities to be utilized in performance of the contract have been included on the EPA list of Violating Facilities.
- Any water quality monitoring required to assure that applicable State and Federal water quality standards are met during construction will be done by the contractor or Douglas County.
- The instream water right, (minimum perennial streamflow) will be maintained whenever sufficient natural flow is available in the stream.

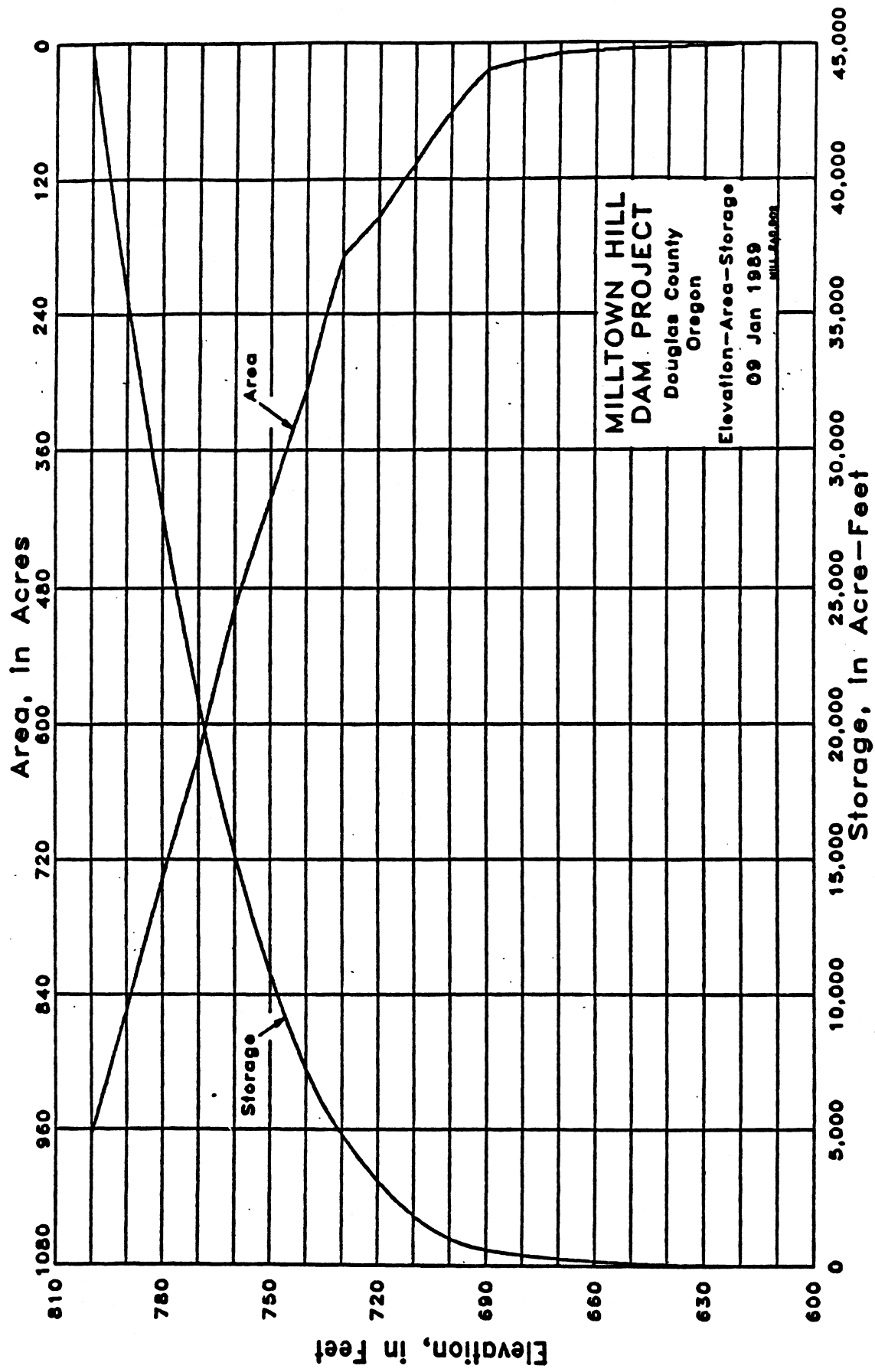
6. Ground Water

- Sanitary wastes will be collected from the tanks of portable toilets and trucked to the nearest municipal wastewater treatment plant for disposal.

Appendix A

**General Plan
Profiles and Details**

Reservoir Area - Capacity Curve



Milltown Hill reservoir storage capacity, and reservoir water surface area, versus reservoir pool.

Source: Milltown Hill Project, Hydrology Appendix. Chapter 5, page 196.

Appendix B
Environmental Commitments

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

Douglas County, Oregon, proposes to construct and operate the Milltown Hill Project on Elk Creek, Umpqua River, Oregon. The agency consultation and public involvement process has identified various opportunities to maintain or enhance the environment. Douglas County, in consultation with Bureau of Reclamation, has considered the opportunities and includes the following as environmental commitments that will be implemented with the project. These commitments will be included as part of the Federal decision making process and, if the project is approved, would become conditions of the loan and grant agreement with the United States. Douglas County would be responsible for carrying out and overseeing all environmental commitments as described in the final environmental statement and as listed below.

A. Pre-Construction Phase

1. Permits and Approvals

- Douglas County or its contractors will obtain all necessary permits and approvals prior to construction.

2. Mineral and Aggregate Resources

- Permits will be obtained, if needed, for Otten Quarry.

3. Geology, Soils, and Seismicity

- Investigations and evaluations will be preformed of possible landslide areas within the reservoir basin which could be affected by road construction, borrow operations, or inundation.

- Investigations and evaluations will be performed to verify the adequacy of the foundation and abutments.
- The dam and appurtenant structures will be designed for the appropriate seismic values for the area.

4. Dam Safety

- The dam and related facilities will be designed in accordance with sound engineering practices.
- Construction plans and specifications will be submitted to the Bureau of Reclamation and the Oregon Water Resources Department for safety review as well as to an independent review board.
- An emergency action plan will be developed.

5. Surface Water

- The discharge facilities will be designed to provide aeration of flows.

6. Cultural Resources

- Historic structures evaluation and test excavations will be completed to determine if they are eligible to the Natural Register; means to avoid or reduce the adverse project effect will be investigated, and the adverse effect will be mitigated through data recovery. SHPO and the Advisory Council will be consulted for review and approval. A Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) for impact mitigation actions will be signed by Reclamation, Douglas County, the SHPO, and the Council. Impact mitigation actions will be completed at each site before any project action effects that structure or site location.

7. Social Environment

- Negotiations will be initiated with property owners at the earliest possible date to minimize speculation, apprehension, and misinformation.
- Private property will be purchased and relocation assistance provided in accordance with the Uniform Relocation assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act.

8. Wildlife

- A wildlife mitigation and enhancement plan will be prepared prior to construction in consultation with resource agencies.
- A habitat and population survey will be conducted prior to construction. If the western pond turtle is proposed for listing, or listed prior to construction, consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service will be reinitiated. Following construction, populations of western pond turtle will be monitored and measures taken to insure the conservation of the species in Elk Creek in coordination with ODFW and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

9. Vegetation

- A survey will be conducted within any affected potential habitat for rough allocarya in the inundation area. If the species is found to occur in the inundation zone, consultation will be reinitiated with the Fish and Wildlife Service to determine requirements if the species is listed as threatened or endangered.

10. Fisheries Resource

- A fisheries mitigation and enhancement plan will be prepared prior to construction in consultation with resource agencies.
- If the Umpqua chub is proposed for listing, or listed prior to construction, consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service would be reinitiated. Following construction, downstream populations of Umpqua chub would be monitored and measures be taken to insure the conservation of the species in Elk Creek in coordination with ODFW and the Fish and Wildlife Service.

B. Construction Phase

1. Topography

- Slope cuts and fills will be at angles that minimize potential for landslides; revegetate where appropriate to minimize erosion.

2. Mineral and Aggregate Resources

- Utilize excavated materials found within the impoundment perimeter for construction purposes if suitable.

3. Dam Safety

- Twenty-four hour electronic sensors will be installed directly linked to Douglas County Reservoir Operations Center.
- Appropriate instrumentation systems will be installed to allow monitoring of structure performance.

4. Air Quality

- Dust will be controlled during construction by wetting the ground surface as necessary.
- Exposed areas will be revegetated to achieve long-term soil stabilization.
- Hauling distances will be minimized by using fill material from within the pool area to avoid exposing downstream residences to wind blown dust.
- Methods and devices as are reasonable available will be used to control, prevent, and otherwise minimize atmospheric emissions or discharges of atmospheric contaminants and noise.

5. Surface Water

- Cut and remove vegetation from the impoundment to minimize decaying organics, except for Walker Creek which will not be disturbed. The area in the upper impoundment will be cleared under the direction of ODFW to leave trees/snags for wildlife.
- Avoid grubbing vegetation and soil disturbance in the reservoir area to the extent possible, to minimize nutrient release from soils.
- Install a multilevel water intake structure in the dam to help regulate temperature in the water released to Elk Creek.
- The project will comply with Executive Order 11988, Flood-plain Management.

- Reasonable care will be taken during construction of cofferdams or diversion dams to prevent increased turbidity or siltation in Elk Creek.
- To the extent possible, machinery for instream construction will be operated from the streambank, not in the stream.
- To the extent possible, disturbance of the streambed will be kept to a minimum, and the streambed will be returned as nearly as possible to its original condition or better outside the reservoir.
- Excavated materials will not be stockpiled or deposited near or on streambanks, steep slopes, wetlands, or other watercourse perimeters where they could be washed away by high water or storm runoff or encroach upon the watercourse itself.
- Contractors will be required to use such methods and devices as are reasonably available to ensure that any waste waters discharged into surface waters will be essentially free of settleable material.
- Contractors will be required to comply with all State and Federal laws and regulations regarding the control and abatement of water pollution. The County has included a Clean Air and Water Certification in the Loan Application attesting that no facilities to be utilized in performance of the contract have been included on the EPA list of Violating Facilities.
- Any water quality monitoring required to assure that applicable State and Federal water quality standards are met during construction will be done by the contractor or Douglas County.
- The instream water right, (minimum perennial streamflow) will be maintained whenever sufficient natural flow is available in the stream.

6. Ground Water

- Sanitary wastes will be collected from the tanks of portable toilets and trucked to the nearest municipal wastewater treatment plant for disposal.

7. Vegetation

- Disturbed areas will be revegetated (either reseed or landscape) that are not permanently occupied by new facilities and those areas around new facilities, and at Otten Quarry.
- Douglas County will comply with Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands by preventing conversion of wetlands to agricultural use.
- Vegetation will be left undisturbed in Walker Creek area.

8. Wildlife

- Work with ODFW to develop the upper reservoir area for wildlife habitat.
- Excavate areas in upper pool area to create wetlands for wildlife habitat under the direction of ODFW.
- Block construction roads that will not be permanent access roads to minimize disturbance to wildlife.
- Monitor populations of western pond turtle in the reservoir area if the species is listed as threatened or endangered.
- Enhance vegetation for nesting habitat on the island in the upper reservoir.

9. Fisheries Resources

- Install suitable facilities in the outlet system to aerate water releases.
- Minimize work in the stream that will cause turbidity or sedimentation or disturbance to spawning or rearing fish.
- Enhance spawning habitat in the lower reaches of Elk Creek by depositing gravel.

10. Visual Quality

- Any long-term adverse impact on the aesthetic character of the project area will be minimized by proper landscaping, site design, or site restoration. When an area is no longer needed for construction, stockpiling, or access, any land

disturbed but not permanently occupied by new facilities will be landscaped and/or revegetated as needed.

- Develop and maintain a vegetated buffer zone between the access road and reservoir and around the reservoir where possible.
- Provide landscaping or maintenance of vegetation at reservoir access areas.
- Shape the land where appropriate at the damsite and Otten Quarry and revegetate the area.

11. Property Lines

- Provide permanent reference survey markers for all land survey monuments to be inundated by the reservoir or destroyed by construction activities.

C. Operation Phase

1. Noise

- Restrict high-speed boating to the main pool by limiting access to the upper end of the reservoir.
- Restrict Walker Creek arm and upper reservoir to non-motorized boating.

2. Surface Water

- Elk Creek water temperature and instream flows will be monitored by the County throughout the life of the project. Data gathered will be used to improve project operations.
- Coordinate with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for optimum releases to benefit anadromous and resident fish.
- Operate the facility so existing minimum stream-flows and prior water rights of record are not adversely affected.
- Flood control operations will be coordinated with the Corps of Engineers.
- Douglas County will coordinate with the Bureau of Land Management to review timber harvest activities near the reservoir.

- County will monitor mercury content for reservoir fish for a 3-year period, and evaluate annually.

6. Wildlife

- A wildlife monitoring plan developed prior to construction will be implemented.
- A detailed monitoring and evaluation plan will be developed prior to construction and implemented to track wildlife accomplishments with the project, and serve as the basis to "fine-tune" project operations and management to achieve the optimum wildlife benefits. Development of the plan will be coordinated with the wildlife agencies.
- County will secure 767 acres of area suitable for Columbian white-tailed deer.
- About 90 acres of standing timber will be left in the Walker Creek Arm and the lower reservoir.
- Shallow, permanent water bodies will be created in the upper end of the pool (upstream of the road crossing). About 23 acres of wetlands will be created in association with these pools which will retain water and support emergent vegetation upon lowering of the reservoir surface to elevation 740 feet msl.
- About 120 acres in the upper end of the pool will be maintained for high quality wildlife habitat.
- About 200 acres of upland at the upper part of the reservoir and within the take-line will be managed for wildlife. A variety of habitat improvements will be realized on this land including fencing, grazing restrictions, planting wildlife cover and forage crops, nesting structures, and development of snags. An interagency team of biologists will develop a management plan for this area.
- Riparian enhancement will be conducted on about 1.5 miles of Elk Creek downstream of the project site. Restoration will include plantings and/or fencing in areas where vegetation has been impacted by grazing, brush clearing, and other human activities. Potential funding sources include land owners and local, state, and federal funds, and funds from special-interest groups.

7. Recreation

- County will provide a part-time caretaker to help minimize trespassing and vandalism.
- Facilities will be operated by Douglas County Parks Department as part of its normal program.

8. Transportation

- County will monitor traffic to the reservoir to determine the need for increased road maintenance and road improvements.
- Roads will be constructed and upgraded for access to the reservoir.

9. Police Protection

- Increased summer patrols will be implemented by the County Sheriff's Department in the project area to minimize vandalism and trespassing.

10. Visual Resources

- Douglas County will coordinate with the Bureau of Land Management to determine if modification of timber harvest activities would be necessary to maintain visual quality of the area near the reservoir.

Appendix C

**Bureau of Reclamation Responses
to Recommendations made by
Fish and Wildlife Service in
Review of the Status Report and
Environmental Analysis**

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
COORDINATION ACT REPORT

RECOMMENDATIONS

Under authority of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (FWCA), P.L. 85-624 Section 2, and in accordance with Reclamation Planning Instructions, coordination with the Service was initiated at the inception of this study. The Service submitted a Final FWCA Report in August 1990. The impact analysis and mitigation plan presented in the Status Report and Environmental Analysis was developed in close cooperation with the Service and incorporates the recommendations of the FWCA Report. The FWS made 7 specific recommendations at the conclusion of its FWCA Report. These recommendations are noted below along with Reclamation's response to each recommendation.

RECOMMENDATIONS	RESPONSE
1. Additional temperature and flow data collection and analysis be completed to verify temperature modeling efforts with the project, and to be used in the operational plan. This work would be coordinated with fishery agencies.	1. Reclamation concurs with this recommendation. County will initiate additional studies in 1990 to evaluate water temperatures.
2. An operational plan should be completed to document flows with and without the project, and to clarify hydropower operations and its consistency with other project purposes.	2. Reclamation concurs with this recommendation. County will prepare operational plans. The operational plan would receive input from the Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.
3. A detailed monitoring and evaluation plan be developed and implemented to track fishery accomplishments with the project, and serve as the basis to fine-tune project operations to achieve the optimum fishery benefits. Development of the plan should be coordinated with the fishery agencies.	3. Reclamation concurs with this recommendation. County will develop and implement the plan after consultation with the fishery agencies. The plan will be implemented during project construction.

4. Implementation of the aquatic habitat improvements be developed in sequence, based on the results of the monitoring and evaluation work; and the need for possible fish passage improvements at the "Cunningham Dam" be evaluated."

5. In addition to the tree retention and wetlands development planned with the project, on-site wildlife mitigation measures be implemented, to include; land acquisition (204) acres; vegetation plantings; snag developments; and nest boxes and nest platforms. Additional details, design considerations, locations, etc. should be developed and coordinated with the resource agencies prior to project construction.

6. Off-site wildlife mitigation be implemented for Columbian white-tailed deer by securing 767 acres of suitable habitat within the core area for the deer. Addition securing of white-tailed deer habitat should be pursued as an enhancement opportunity toward delisting of the species.

4. Reclamation concurs with this recommendation. A plan will be developed by County to evaluate passage at Cunningham Dam during project construction.

5. Reclamation concurs with this recommendation. The upper end of the reservoir could be developed and managed for a variety of wildlife species. All non-compatible uses should be restricted. Land could be acquired through purchase or secured by conservation easements. The interagency HEP team has evaluated a variety of features such as ponds, plantings, in-reservoir cover, etc. Specific plans for the wildlife area would be developed during advanced planning and coordinated with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Roseburg County Water Resources Department.

6. Reclamation concurs with this recommendation. Douglas County and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife could coordinate efforts and contact land owners in the core area of Columbian white-tailed deer habitat. Agreements should be made to maintain the necessary habitat components such as understory vegetation.

7. Additional enhancement opportunities for fish and wildlife resources be implemented off-site by improving wetlands and/or riparian habitat in the Scotts and Yoncalla Valley areas. Details of this plan should be coordinated with the resource agencies prior to implementation.

7. Reclamation concurs in principle with this recommendation. Opportunities of riparian enhancement exist downstream along Elk Creek in Scott's Valley. Two logging ponds in the area have potential for wetland development. Both riparian restoration and wetland development would add to the general wildlife habitat values. A plan will be developed by County during project construction.

Appendix D

**Notice of Intent and Oregon A-95
Clearing House Responses**

1990 DEC 13 AM 9:24
GAY FIELDS
DOUGLAS COUNTY CLERK

**NOTICE OF INTENT
SMALL RECLAMATION PROJECTS ACT
(Public Law 84-984)**

December 12, 1990

Regional Director
Pacific Northwest Region
Bureau of Reclamation
Federal Building
Box 043-550 West Fort Street
Boise, Idaho 83724

Dear Sir:

As a result of the Northern Douglas County cooperative study for water development opportunities, the County has elected to proceed with the Milltown Hill Project on Elk Creek under the Small Reclamation Projects Act as administered by the Bureau of Reclamation.

Douglas County, Oregon hereby gives notice of its intent to apply for Federal financing under the Small Reclamation Projects Act of 1956, as amended. The following information is submitted for your consideration.

- A. Douglas County was established January 7, 1852, under the laws of the State of Oregon and has the authority to contract with individuals, corporations, the State of Oregon and the United States.
- B. Offices of the applicant are located in Roseburg, Oregon. The proposed project and its service area is in Douglas County and in the Fourth Congressional District.

Names of the County Commissioners are:

Joyce Morgan, Chair
Doug Robertson
Doris Wadsworth

All correspondence should be addressed to M. John Youngquist, Water Resources Coordinator, Room 103, Justice Building, Roseburg, Oregon, 97470.

- C. Applicant's legal representative is Paul Nolte, County Counsel, Courthouse, Roseburg, Oregon, 97470

Applicants engineering representative is Dave Leonard P.E., Director of Public Works, Room 219, Courthouse, Roseburg, Oregon, 97470.

- D. The applicant proposes to design and construct the Milltown Hill Project on Elk Creek, a tributary of the Umpqua River, in Douglas County, as shown on the attached location map.

- E. The applicant would use Federal financing to construct the project, consisting of:

1. A roller compacted concrete (RCC) 190 foot high dam at the Milltown Hill site forming a 24,143 acre-foot reservoir to provide storage for:
 - a. irrigation and municipal/industrial water supplies for diversion from Elk Creek downstream of the dam and from a pressure pipeline distribution system in Yoncalla and Scotts Valleys,
 - b. enhancement of anadromous fish habitat in Adams, Yoncalla and Elk Creeks,
 - c. flood control downstream of the dam, and
 - d. reservoir recreation, fish and wildlife uses.
2. A pressure-pipeline distribution system for delivery of water for irrigation of 2,700 acres of new lands in Yoncalla and Scotts Valleys, municipal/industrial water supplies to the city of Yoncalla and the community of Rice Hill and aquatic habitat enhancement in Yoncalla and Adams Creeks.
3. Aquatic habitat improvement structures in 46 miles of Elk Creek stream channel below the dam for enhancement of anadromous fish.
4. Recreation facilities, such as boat ramps, picnic sites, sanitation facilities and hiking trails at two locations on the reservoir.

The project also will include facilities for surface and sub-surface drainage of irrigated lands, to be installed as determined necessary during development of irrigated lands.

The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$37,800,000, with the County contributing \$9,450,000.

- F. The basic effect of the project on the environment would be to provide a firm water supply for the cities of Drain and Yoncalla and the community of Rice Hill for a projected 40 year period, enhance anadromous fish habitat through water quantity and quality improvements in Adams, Yoncalla and Elk Creeks, reduce flood damage in the city of Drain, and to provide a firm water supply for irrigation in Yoncalla and Scotts Valleys and in riparian areas along Elk Creek. Construction activities would be restricted to the minimum necessary for project purposes. The county will consult with all concerned agencies during the preconstruction period to assure the least possible adverse effects from the proposed project.

The County desires to prepare a draft environmental impact statement, therefore, we would appreciate the Bureau proceeding with a notice of intent in the Federal Register.

- G. The applicant understands that the estimated total cost of the project cannot exceed the limitation imposed by section 2(f) of the Small Reclamation Projects Act of 1956 as amended, and that the limitation so established for calendar year 1990 is \$46,600,000. The applicant further understands that the maximum amount of a loan, or combination of loan and grant, which can be obtained for a small reclamation project cannot exceed the limitation imposed by section 5(a) of the Small Reclamation Projects Act as amended. The limitation as established for calendar year 1990 is \$31,100,000, and any cost in excess of the maximum permissible loan amount must be obtained from sources other than the loan or grant. The applicant hereby certifies that, to its best knowledge, the total project costs will not exceed the authorized ceiling.
- H. The applicant understands that to obtain a loan, it must enter into a contract with the United States for repayment of the loan within 40 years or less from the date when the principal benefits of the project first become available.

The applicant understands further that interest will not be charged on that portion of the project cost which is properly assigned to irrigation or drainage of land not in excess of 160 acres in a single ownership. The applicant also understands that the amount of the loan allocated to irrigating or draining excess lands, municipal and industrial

water, commercial power, and the reimbursable portion of costs allocated to fish and wildlife enhancement and outdoor recreation will be interest bearing.

I. The applicant understands that preparation of its application is to be financed with its own funds, and the application is to be in the form of a resolution by the Board of Commissioners accompanied by a report giving information on:

1. History, organization, operation, and financial condition of the applicant.
2. Lands to be served by the proposed project, crops produced on the lands, and types of agricultural enterprise.
3. Water rights and existing and potential water supplies and their quality.
4. Requirements for water for irrigation and, if applicable, for municipal, industrial, and domestic uses including the basis for projection of future use.
5. The proposed project including descriptions of the various works; explanations of project operation; estimates of construction, operation, maintenance, and replacement costs; and appropriate maps and drawings.
6. Benefits attributable to purposes involving grants, allocation of costs between purposes, and the ability of the applicant to repay the loan.

J. The applicant is willing and able to pay \$5,000, at the time of its application, to cover part of the cost incurred by the Bureau of Reclamation in reviewing and processing the application.

K. The applicant understands that approval of the loan (or grant) will be dependent, among other things, on a satisfactory showing in the application that:

1. The proposed project will serve its intended purpose.
2. The plans are in accordance with sound engineering principles.
3. The applicant has or can acquire all lands, and land and water rights required for satisfactory construction, operation, and maintenance of the project.

4. The applicant has given due consideration under the Water Pollution Control Act and the Clean Air Act in the development of its plans for construction and operation, to the prevention or abatement of the pollution of streams, reservoirs, ground water or water courses, with respect to thermal or air pollution or the discharge of refuse, garbage, sewage effluent, industrial wastes, oil, mill tailings, mineral salts, or other water or air pollutants, and to opportunities for water quality control through storage or by other means. Also, consideration of Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, for Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands, respectively, is made. The applicant also must include a "Clean Air and Water Certification" and an Assurance of Compliance Form-Civil Rights Act with the application.
 5. The estimate of the construction cost is satisfactory and adequate for determining the amount of the loan and/or grant.
 6. The construction cost of the project has been allocated properly among the various purposes of the project.
 7. The costs allocated to nonreimbursable purposes are justified Federal expenditures.
 8. The applicant is or can reasonably become a suitable entity for contracting with the United States for repayment of the loan.
 9. The applicant is willing and financially able to provide proper operation, maintenance, and replacement of its works including the proposed works, and to repay the loan within a period not to exceed 40 years from the date when the principal benefits of the project first become available.
- L. The applicant understands that it will be required to finance from its own resources such portion of the project construction cost (which portion shall include the costs of acquiring necessary lands, land rights, and water rights) as the Secretary of the Interior shall determine to be proper.
- M. The applicant understands that before a loan (or grant) can be approved, it must submit copies of the application (1) to the States of the drainage basin in which the project is located,

for review in a like manner to that provided in Section (c) of the Flood Control Act of 1944; (2) to the Fish and Wildlife Service and to the fish and game organizations of the States affected by the project for review in accordance with provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act; (3) to the Environmental Protection Agency in conformance with the provisions of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act; and (4) to the appropriate State contact point(s) in accordance with Title IV of the Intergovernmental Cooperation Act of 1968 and Section 204 of the Demonstration Cities and Metropolitan Development Act of 1966.

- N. The applicant understands that the Governor of the State in which the project is located (or an appropriate State agency designated by him) must find the project to be financially feasible before a loan (or grant) can be approved.
- O. The applicant understands that it will be required to prepare and submit an environmental assessment as a basis for preparation by Reclamation of necessary environmental reports.
- P. The applicant understands that as a clearinghouse function, a copy of its application will be furnished for review and comment to the public agency charged with enforcing civil rights laws.
- Q. The applicant understands that information covering the participation of minority groups and women on the board of commissioners, management staff, and among employees must be provided to the Regional Director. Such data will be used for "Pre-Award Review" by the Office for Equal Opportunity of the Department of the Interior to determine the status of compliance with title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.
- R. The applicant understands that:
 - 1. It must pay in advance for all work performed by the Bureau of Reclamation, at the applicant's request, for use in the application.
 - 2. All reimbursable costs, in excess of the \$5,000 advanced by the applicant, incurred by the Bureau of Reclamation in processing the application and administering the proposed program will become a part of the loan.
 - 3. Upon approval of the proposal, execution of the repayment contract, appropriation of funds by Congress, and release of these funds by the Office of Management and Budget, the Bureau of Reclamation will advance funds as required

for preconstruction activities including the preparation of construction designs and specifications, to the extent that funds are available.

4. Approval of designs and specifications by the Bureau of Reclamation contingent on the designs and specifications being in accordance with sound engineering principles and being capable of accomplishing their purpose.
5. Upon approval of the designs and specifications, the Bureau of Reclamation will advance funds as required for construction of the project, to the extent of available funds.

We are sending a copy of this Notice of Intent to each of the agencies listed on the attached Distribution List.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF DOUGLAS COUNTY, OREGON

By: Joyce Morgan
Chair

By: Doris L. Wadsworth
Commissioner

By: Don Robertson
Commissioner 12-12-90

Enclosures:

Project Location Map
Distribution List

Distribution List:

**U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Portland, Oregon**

**Environmental Protection Agency
Seattle, Washington**

**Governor of Oregon
Salem, Oregon**

**State of Oregon
A95 Clearinghouse
Water Resources Department
Department of Environmental Quality
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Department of Forestry
Division of State Lands
Department of Parks and Recreation
Oregon Department of Transportation**

ORIGINAL



OREGON INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROJECT REVIEW

State Clearinghouse
Intergovernmental Relations Division
155 Cottage Street N. E.
Salem, Oregon 97310
503)373-7652

BUREAU OF
RECLAMATION
OFFICIAL FILE COPY
JAN 28 1991

TO
105 K 1/30
700
200

CONCLUSIONS

APPLICANT: Douglas County

PROJECT TITLE: Milltown Hill Dam on Elk Creek

DATE: January 22, 1991

The State of Oregon (and local clearinghouses if listed) has reviewed your project and reached the following conclusions:

- [] No significant conflict with the plans, policies or programs of state or local government have been identified.
- [X] Relevant comments of state agencies and/or local governments are attached and should be considered in the final design of your proposal.
- [] Potential conflicts with the plans and programs of state and/or local government:
- [] may exist.
- [] have been identified and remain unresolved. The final proposal has been reviewed and final comments and recommendations are attached.
- [] have been satisfactorily resolved. No significant issues remain.

A copy of this notification and attachments, if any, must accompany your application to the federal agency.

FEDERAL CATALOG # 15.503

NOTICE TO FEDERAL AGENCY
THE FOLLOWING IS THE OFFICIALLY ASSIGNED STATE IDENTIFIER NUMBER

OR901214-041-2

Solomon Street
Clearinghouse Coordinator



OREGON INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROJECT REVIEW

JAN 19 1991

State Clearinghouse
Intergovernmental Relations Division
155 Cottage Street N. E.
Salem, Oregon 97310
373-7652

PLEASE RETURN
ORIGINAL FORM

STATE AGENCY REVIEW

Project Number OR 901214-041-2 Return Date: ASAP (1-18-91)

To Agency Addressed: If you intend to comment but cannot respond by the return date, please notify us immediately. If no response is received by the due date, it will be assumed that you have no comment and the file will be closed.

Douglas

PROGRAM REVIEW AND COMMENT

TO STATE CLEARINGHOUSE: We have reviewed the subject Notice and have reached the following conclusions on its relationship to our plans and programs:

- ☐ It has no adverse effect.
- ☐ We have no comment.
- ☐ Effects, although measurable, would be acceptable.
- ☐ It has adverse effects. (Explain in Remarks Section.)
- ☒ We are interested but require more information to evaluate the proposal. (Explain in Remarks Section.)
- ☐ Additional comments for project improvement. (Attach if necessary.)

REMARKS (Please type or print legibly)

See attached letter. Douglas County's plan for providing the information we requested is satisfactory.

Agency Forestry

By [Signature]

IPR #2

Phone Number 373-8387

JAN 15 1991

Oregon

January 14, 1991

DEPARTMENT
OF FORESTRY

State Foresters Office

State Clearinghouse
Intergovernmental Relations Division
155 Cottage St. N.E.
Salem, Oregon 97310

SUBJECT: COMMENTS IRD #OR901124-041-2
Douglas Countys' Milltown Hill Dam



"STEWARDSHIP IN
FORESTRY"

Gentlemen:

We have received notice of the above and offer the following comments in regards to the proposed project.

This Department is responsible for fire protection on private forest lands in Oregon and all BLM lands in western Oregon. Prior to commencing operations on any forest land in Oregon, state laws require that contractors must notify the State Forester of that operation (ORS 527.670), obtain a permit to use power driven machinery (ORS 477.625) and if applicable; obtain a permit to clear rights-of-way (ORS 477.685).

The Oregon State Board of Forestry and this Department are concerned with reduction of the State's forest land base and associated losses of timber revenue, jobs, wages and other benefits. This loss of forest land base over the years has been due to many factors, including conversion of forest land to water impoundments.

Because of these concerns, we would like to see the following information provided in Douglas Countie's Draft Environmental Impact Statement for this project:

1. How many acres of productive forest land (by site class) will be affected by roads, transmission lines, buildings, penstocks, ditches or canals?
2. What values were used to arrive at estimated forest productivity losses for timber stumpage, wages, taxes, recreation, fish and wildlife?
3. Was the estimated value lost from forest productivity included in the economic analysis of the proposed project?

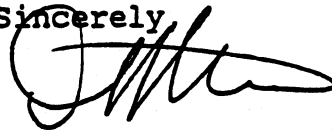


4. Are alternative rights-of-way or locations available for part or all of the project which do not involve forest land? If so, please give the reason for not selecting the alternative location.

The answers to these questions will be useful to us in making our analysis of the effect of this proposed project on the State's forest resources.

Please contact Bob Bourhill (phone 378-2553) if you need clarification.

Sincerely,



David H. Stere, Director
Forest Resource Planning

DHS/BB

RECEIVED

DEC 18 1990

STATE PARKS AND
RECREATION DEPARTMENT



OREGON INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROJECT REVIEW

I.R.D.

DEC 20 1990

State Clearinghouse
Intergovernmental Relations Division
155 Cottage Street N. E.
Salem, Oregon 97310
373-7652

PLEASE RETURN
ORIGINAL FORM

STATE AGENCY REVIEW

Project Number OR901214-041-2 Return Date: JAN 18 1991

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- ☐ Additional comments for project improvement. (Attach if necessary.)

REMARKS (Please type or print legibly)

The studies regarding cultural inventories and site evaluation in the 1988 BOR study of Heritage Research associated should be implemented

BOR
Mullman Hill Project
OK

Agency SHPO

By

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
FILED IN LELAND

IPR #2

Phone Number

GILSEN 378-5023

DEC 18 1990



OREGON INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROJECT REVIEW

JAN 11 1991

State Clearinghouse
Intergovernmental Relations Division
155 Cottage Street N. E.
Salem, Oregon 97310
373-7652

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REMARKS (Please type or print legibly)

The Department of Fish and Wildlife has been communicating directly with Douglas County and the Bureau of Reclamation regarding the Milltown Hill Project.

Agency F&W By Mary J. Patten

IPR #2

Phone Number 229-5410 x 464

Steve 1/
Bill 1/

VERNMENTAL PROJECT REVIEW

Jan 18 1991

State Clearinghouse
Environmental Relations Division
155 Cottage Street N. E.
Salem, Oregon 97310
373-7652

PLEASE RETURN
ORIGINAL FORM

STATE AGENCY REVIEW

Project Number OR901214-041-2 Return Date: JAN 18 1991

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☒ Additional comments for project improvement. (Attach if necessary.)

=====

If the project would require the removal, fill, or alteration of 50 cubic yards or more of material within the banks of the waterway(s) or wetland area(s), we urge the applicant to apply for state removal or fill permits well in advance of construction deadlines to prevent unnecessary project delays. Specific information on the need for permits may be obtained from the Division of State Lands' office at 1600 State Street, Salem, OR 97310.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project.

Agency Lands By W. P. P. P.
IPR #2 Phone Number 877-7652

OF
HDS
AM 90

RECEIVED

DEC 18 1990

WATER RESOURCES DEPT.
SALEM, OREGON



OREGON INTERGOVERNMENTAL PROJECT REVIEW

I. H. D.

JAN 23 1991

State Clearinghouse
Intergovernmental Relations Division
155 Cottage Street N. E.
Salem, Oregon 97310
373-7652

PLEASE RETURN
ORIGINAL FORM

STATE AGENCY REVIEW

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- ☒ Additional comments ~~for project improvement~~. (Attach if necessary.)

REMARKS (Please type or print legibly)

See attached.

Agency Water Res By _____

IPR #2

Phone Number _____



I. R. D.

JAN 22 1991

Water Resources Department

3850 PORTLAND ROAD NE, SALEM, OREGON 97310

PHONE 378-3671

MEMORANDUM

TO: State Clearinghouse, IRD
FROM: Rick Bastasch, Resource Management Division
DATE: January 17, 1991
SUBJECT: OR 901214-041-2: Milltown Hill Project on Elk Creek

The proposed project appears to be consistent with Water Resources Commission findings in the Umpqua River Basin Program. The findings document insufficient water supplies in all streams in the Elk Creek subbasin during low-flow periods. The program also notes insufficient streamflows to supply future municipal, industrial, and agricultural needs. In many of the subbasin's streams, storage of winter flows is described as necessary to provide adequate late season streamflows for anadromous fish. Lastly, the program states that "full utilization of the water resource potential in the ... Elk Subbasin will be obtained only through storage of surplus winter flows."

The Water Resources Department looks forward to reviewing more specific information provided in environmental assessments and through the water right application process.

cc: District 15
Watermaster



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Administration
Room 219 / Courthouse
Roseburg, Oregon 97470
(503) 440-4308

Engineering and Construction
Room 304 / Courthouse
Roseburg, Oregon 97470
(503) 440-6481

Operations and Maintenance
2586 N.E. Diamond Lake Blvd
Roseburg, Oregon 97470
(503) 440-4268

Water Resources Survey
Room 103 / Justice Building
Roseburg, Oregon 97470
(503) 440-4255

January 14, 1991

State Clearinghouse
Intergovernmental Relations Division
155 Cottage Street NE
Salem, Oregon 97310

RE: Milltown Hill Dam
Project No. OR901214-041-2

Dear Sir/Madam:

On December 20, 1990, a notice of continuing interest was sent to Douglas County with additional questions from the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) concerning the above referenced project. The DEQ requested additional information on water quality issues.

The County agrees that additional information should be provided to the Department prior to their final comments on the project. The County would prefer to address those comments in more detail in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) we are currently preparing.

This project has been under study for the past two years and considerable data has been accumulated. The Bureau of Reclamation had intended to produce a DEIS, however, when the County elected to proceed with the project under the Small Reclamation's Act of 1956 the DEIS will be produced by the County.

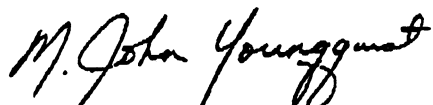
While local scoping for the document has been done through a series of public meetings on the project, the County intends to have a formal coordination meeting in Portland with all the State Agencies during the month of February.

RE: Milltown Hill Dam OR901214-041-2
January 2, 1991
Page 2

After the coordination meeting, the County will provide the DEQ with the water quality data to date for their input prior to printing the DEIS. In addition, the County will be requesting the DEQ for a "clean water certification" prior to proceeding with the project construction.

If this is not satisfactory or if there are additional questions, please contact me.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "M. John Youngquist".

M. John Youngquist
Water Resources Coordinator

RECEIVED

FEB 14 1991

**DOUGLAS COUNTY
PUBLIC WORKS ADMINISTRATION**

February 8, 1991

**County Board of Commissioners
Douglas County
1036 S.E. Douglas
Roseburg, OR 97470**

Re: Milltown Hill Project

REVIEWED:

Doug: _____

Doris: _____

Joyce: _____

**DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY**

RECEIVED

FEB 13 1991

**DOUGLAS COUNTY
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**

This is to acknowledge receipt of your Notice of Intent to apply for Federal financing under the Small Reclamation Projects Act for the Milltown Hill Project on Elk Creek.

The County has clearly indicated it recognizes the need to obtain a water quality standards compliance certification from the Department pursuant to Section 401 of the federal Water Pollution Control Act and the Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR 340-48). As you proceed to study and pursue financing of your project proposal, we wish to draw your attention to some specific information and documents.

An applicant for water quality certification of a new hydroelectric project must pay a minimum fee of \$5000 to the Department at the time the application is filed. The fee pays for the expenses incurred by the Department and the Environmental Quality Commission related to review and decision on a certification request. See Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 468.065 (3) and 468.732 which are enclosed for additional information.

Also enclosed are materials explaining the 401 certification process and requirements, including:

1. OAR Chapter 340, Division 48.
2. ORS 468.065 (3) and ORS 468.732
3. A "Format for Evaluation Report and Findings on the Application for Certification Pursuant to Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act", DEQ April, 1989.



811 SW Sixth Avenue
Portland, OR 97204-1390
(503) 229-5696

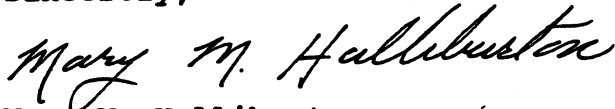


County Board of Commissioners
February 8, 1991
Page 2

The DEQ April 1989 document describes the type of information the Department will look for and how the application will be evaluated. The application need not follow the exact format of the document, however.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please contact me at 229-6978.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary M. Halliburton".

Mary M. Halliburton
Standards and Assessments
Water Quality Division

MMH:crw
SA\WC7793

cc: Rick Bastasch, Oregon Water Resources Department

OREGON ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

CHAPTER 340. DIVISION 48 - DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

DIVISION 48

CERTIFICATION OF COMPLIANCE
WITH WATER QUALITY
REQUIREMENTS AND STANDARDS

Purpose

340-48-005 The purpose of these rules is to describe the procedures to be used by the Department of Environmental Quality for receiving and processing applications for certification of compliance with water quality requirements and standards for projects which are subject to federal agency permits or licenses and which may result in any discharge into navigable waters or impact water quality. In this certification process, the Department of Environmental Quality acts pursuant to Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act. The Department will also comply with state law to the extent that federal law does not supersede state law.

Stat. Auth.: ORS Ch. 468

Hist.: DEQ 18-1985, f. & cf. 12-3-85; DEQ 1-1987, f. & cf. 1-30-87

Definitions

340-48-010 As used in these rules unless otherwise required by context:

(1) "Certification" means a written declaration by the Department of Environmental Quality, signed by the Director, that a project or activity subject to federal permit or license requirements will not violate applicable water quality requirements or standards.

(2) "Clean Water Act" means the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of 1972, Public Law 92-500, as amended.

(3) "Coast Guard" means U.S. Coast Guard.

(4) "Commission" means Oregon Environmental Quality Commission.

(5) "Corps" means U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

(6) "Department" or "DEQ" means Oregon Department of Environmental Quality.

(7) "Director" means Director of the Department of Environmental Quality or the Director's authorized representative.

(8) "Local Government" means county and city government.

Stat. Auth.: ORS Ch. 468

Hist.: DEQ 18-1985, f. & cf. 12-3-85

Certification Required

340-48-015 Any applicant for a federal license or permit to conduct any activity, including but not limited to the construction or operation of facilities which may result in any discharge to waters of the state, must provide the licensing or permitting agency a certification from the Department that any such activity will comply with Sections 301, 302, 303, 306, and 307 of the Clean Water Act which generally prescribe effluent limitations, water quality related effluent limitations, water quality standards and implementation plans, national standards of performance for new sources, and toxic and pretreatment effluent standards.

Stat. Auth.: ORS Ch. 468

Hist.: DEQ 18-1985, f. & cf. 12-3-85

Application for Certification

340-48-020 (1) Except as provided in section (6) below, completed applications for project certification shall be filed directly with the DEQ.

(2) A completed application filed with DEQ shall contain, at a minimum, the following information:

(a) Legal name and address of the project owner.

(b) Legal name and address of owner's designated official representative, if any.

(c) A description of the project location sufficient to locate and distinguish proposed project facilities.

(d) Names and addresses of immediately adjacent property owners.

(e) A complete description of the project proposal, using written discussion, maps, diagrams, and other necessary materials.

(f) Name of involved waterway, lake, or other water body.

(g) Copies of the environmental background information required by the federal permitting or licensing agency or such other environmental background information as may be necessary to demonstrate that the proposed project or activity will comply with water quality requirements.

(h) Copy of any public notice and supporting information, issued by the federal permitting or licensing agency for the project.

(i) An exhibit which:

(A) Identifies and cites the specific provisions of the appropriate local land use plan and implementing regulations that are applicable to the proposed project;

(B) Describes the relationship between the proposed project and each of the provisions identified in paragraph (A) of this section; and

(C) Discusses the potential direct and indirect relationship to water quality of each item described in paragraph (B) of this section.

(D) If specific land use compatibility findings have been prepared by the local planning jurisdiction, these findings should be submitted as part of this exhibit and may be substituted for the requirements in paragraphs (A) and (B) of this section.

(j) For hydroelectric projects, an exhibit which:

(A) Identifies and cites the applicable provisions of ORS 469.371 and 543.017 and implementing rules adopted by the Energy Facility Siting Council and Water Resources Commission;

(B) Describes the relationship between the proposed project and each of the provisions identified in paragraph (A) of this section; and

(C) Discusses the potential direct and indirect relationship to water quality each item described in paragraph (B) of this section.

(k) An exhibit which identifies and describes any other requirements of state law applicable to the proposed project which may have a direct or indirect relationship to water quality.

(3) The DEQ reserves the right to request any additional information necessary to complete an application or to assist the DEQ to adequately evaluate the project impacts on water quality. Failure to complete an application or provide any requested additional information within the time specified in the request shall be grounds for denial of certification.

OREGON ADMINISTRATIVE RULES

CHAPTER 340, DIVISION 48 - DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

appropriate requirements of state law according to Section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, Public Law 92-500, as amended.

(h) A condition which requires the certificate holder to notify the Department of all changes in the project proposal subsequent to certification.

(3) If the applicant is dissatisfied with the conditions of any granted certification, the applicant may request a hearing before the Commission. Such requests for a hearing shall be made in writing to the Director within 30 days of the date of mailing of the certification. Any hearing shall be conducted pursuant to the rules of the Commission for contested cases.

(4) Certifications granted pursuant to these rules are valid for the applicant only and are not transferable.

Stat. Auth.: ORS Ch. 468

Hist.: DEQ 13-1985, f. & ef. 12-3-85; DEQ 1-1987, f. & ef. 1-30-87

Certification Delivery

340-48-030 For projects where application for certification is filed directly with DEQ by the applicant, the DEQ certification will be returned directly to the applicant. For those applications that are coordinated by the Division of State Lands, DEQ certification will be delivered to the Division of State Lands for distribution to the applicant and the federal permitting agencies as part of the Oregon coordinated response.

Stat. Auth.: ORS Ch. 468

Hist.: DEQ 13-1985, f. & ef. 12-3-85

Denial of Certification

340-48-035 If the Department proposes to deny certification for a project, a written notice setting forth the reasons for denial shall be served upon the applicant following procedures in OAR 340-11-097. The written notice shall advise the applicant of appeal rights and procedures. A copy

shall also be provided to the federal permitting agency. The denial shall become effective 20 days from the date of mailing such notice unless within that time the applicant requests a hearing before the Commission or its authorized representative. Such a request for hearing shall be made in writing to the Director and shall state the grounds for the request. Any hearing held shall be conducted pursuant to the rules of the Commission for contested cases.

Stat. Auth.: ORS Ch. 468

Hist.: DEQ 13-1985, f. & ef. 12-3-85

Revocation or Suspension of Certification

340-48-040 (1) Certification granted pursuant to these rules may be suspended, or revoked if the Director determines that:

(a) The federal permit or license for the project is revoked.

(b) The federal permit or license allows modification of the project in a manner inconsistent with the certification.

(c) The application contained false information or otherwise misrepresented the project.

(d) Conditions regarding the project are or have changed since the application was filed.

(e) Special conditions or limitations of the certification are being violated.

(2) Written notice of intent to suspend or revoke shall be served upon the applicant following procedures in OAR 340-11-097. The suspension or revocation shall become effective 20 days from the date of mailing such notice unless within that time the applicant requests a hearing before the Commission or its authorized representative. Such a request for hearing shall be filed with the Director and shall state the grounds for the request. Any hearing held shall be conducted pursuant to the rules of the Commission for contested cases.

Stat. Auth.: ORS Ch. 468

Hist.: DEQ 13-1985, f. & ef. 12-3-85

so provided, as may be fixed by the director, and shall be reimbursed for all expenses actually and necessarily incurred by the deputy director in the performance of the official duties of the deputy director. [1973 c.291 §2]

Note: 468.050 was enacted into law by the Legislative Assembly but was not added to or made a part of ORS chapter 468 or any series therein by legislative action. See Preface to Oregon Revised Statutes for further explanation.

468.055 Contracts with Health Division. In addition to the authority granted under ORS 190.003 to 190.110, when authorized by the commission and the Health Division, the director and the Assistant Director for Health may contract on behalf of their respective agencies for the purposes of carrying out the functions of either agency, defining areas of responsibility, furnishing services or employees by one to the other and generally providing cooperative action in the interests of public health and the quality of the environment in Oregon. Each contracting agency is directed to maintain liaison with the other and to cooperate with the other in all matters of joint concern or interest. [Formerly 449.062]

468.060 Enforcement of rules by health agencies. On its own motion after public hearing, the commission may grant specific authorization to the Health Division or to any county, district or city board of health to enforce any rule of the commission relating to air or water pollution or solid wastes. [Formerly 449.064]

468.065 Issuance of permits; content; fees; use. Subject to any specific requirements imposed by ORS 448.305, 454.010 to 454.040, 454.205 to 454.255, 454.405, 454.425, 454.505 to 454.535, 454.605 to 454.745 and this chapter:

(1) Applications for all permits authorized or required by ORS 448.305, 454.010 to 454.040, 454.205 to 454.255, 454.405, 454.425, 454.505 to 454.535, 454.605 to 454.745 and this chapter shall be made in a form prescribed by the department. Any permit issued by the department shall specify its duration, and the conditions for compliance with the rules and standards, if any, adopted by the commission pursuant to ORS 448.305, 454.010 to 454.040, 454.205 to 454.255, 454.405, 454.425, 454.505 to 454.535, 454.605 to 454.745 and this chapter.

(2) By rule and after hearing, the commission may establish a schedule of fees for permits issued pursuant to ORS 468.310, 468.315, 468.555 and 468.740. The fees contained in the schedule shall be based upon the anticipated cost of filing and investigating the application, of issuing or denying the requested permit, and of an inspection program to determine compliance or noncompli-

ance with the permit. The fee shall accompany the application for the permit.

(3) An applicant for certification of a project under ORS 468.732 or 468.734 shall pay as a fee all expenses incurred by the commission and department related to the review and decision of the director and commission. These expenses may include legal expenses, expenses incurred in processing and evaluating the application, issuing or denying certification and expenses of commissioning an independent study by a contractor of any aspect of the proposed project. These expenses shall not include the costs incurred in defending a decision of either the director or the commission against appeals or legal challenges. Every applicant for certification shall submit to the department a fee at the same time as the application for certification is filed. The fee for a new project shall be \$5,000, and the fee for an existing project needing relicense shall be \$3,000. To the extent possible, the full cost of the investigation shall be paid from the application fee paid under this section. However, if the costs exceed the fee, the applicant shall pay any excess costs shown in an itemized statement prepared by the department. In no event shall the department incur expenses to be borne by the applicant in excess of 110 percent of the fee initially paid without prior notification to the applicant. In no event shall the total fee exceed \$40,000 for a new project or \$30,000 for an existing project needing relicense. If the costs are less than the initial fee paid, the excess shall be refunded to the applicant.

(4) The department may require the submission of plans, specifications and corrections and revisions thereto and such other reasonable information as it considers necessary to determine the eligibility of the applicant for the permit.

(5) The department may require periodic reports from persons who hold permits under ORS 448.305, 454.010 to 454.040, 454.205 to 454.225, 454.405, 454.425, 454.505 to 454.535, 454.605 to 454.745 and this chapter. The report shall be in a form prescribed by the department and shall contain such information as to the amount and nature or common description of the pollutant, contaminant or waste and such other information as the department may require.

(6) Any fee collected under this section shall be deposited in the State Treasury to the credit of an account of the department. Such fees are continuously appropriated to meet the administrative expenses of the program for which they are collected. The fees accompanying an application to a regional air pollution control authority pursuant to a permit program authorized by the commis-

hereby declared to be the public policy of the state:

- (1) To conserve the waters of the state;
- (2) To protect, maintain and improve the quality of the waters of the state for public water supplies, for the propagation of wildlife, fish and aquatic life and for domestic, agricultural, industrial, municipal, recreational and other legitimate beneficial uses;
- (3) To provide that no waste be discharged into any waters of this state without first receiving the necessary treatment or other corrective action to protect the legitimate beneficial uses of such waters;
- (4) To provide for the prevention, abatement and control of new or existing water pollution; and
- (5) To cooperate with other agencies of the state, agencies of other states and the Federal Government in carrying out these objectives. [Formerly 449.077]

468.715 Prevention of pollution. (1) Pollution of any of the waters of the state is declared to be not a reasonable or natural use of such waters and to be contrary to the public policy of the State of Oregon, as set forth in ORS 468.710.

(2) In order to carry out the public policy set forth in ORS 468.710, the department shall take such action as is necessary for the prevention of new pollution and the abatement of existing pollution by:

(a) Fostering and encouraging the cooperation of the people, industry, cities and counties, in order to prevent, control and reduce pollution of the waters of the state; and

(b) Requiring the use of all available and reasonable methods necessary to achieve the purposes of ORS 468.710 and to conform to the standards of water quality and purity established under ORS 468.735. [Formerly 449.095]

468.720 Prohibited activities. (1) Except as provided in ORS 468.740, no person shall:

(a) Cause pollution of any waters of the state or place or cause to be placed any wastes in a location where such wastes are likely to escape or be carried into the waters of the state by any means.

(b) Discharge any wastes into the waters of the state if the discharge reduces the quality of such waters below the water quality standards established by rule for such waters by the commission.

(2) No person shall violate the conditions of any waste discharge permit issued under ORS 468.740.

(3) Violation of subsection (1) or (2) of this section is a public nuisance. [Formerly 449.079]

468.725 Effluent limitations. In relation to the waters of the state, the commission by rule may establish effluent limitations, as defined in Section 502 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended by Public Law 92-500, October 18, 1972, and other minimum requirements for disposal of wastes, minimum requirements for operation and maintenance of disposal systems, and all other matters pertaining to standards of quality for the waters of the state. The commission may perform or cause to be performed any and all acts necessary to be performed by the state to implement within the jurisdiction of the state the provisions of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act of October 18, 1972, and Acts amendatory thereof or supplementary thereto, and federal regulations and guidelines issued pursuant thereto. [Formerly 449.081]

468.730 Implementation of Federal Water Pollution Control Act. The commission may perform or cause to be performed any and all acts necessary to be performed by the state to implement within the jurisdiction of the state the provisions of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, enacted by Congress, October 18, 1972, and Acts amendatory thereof or supplementary thereto, and federal regulations and guidelines issued pursuant thereto. The commission may adopt, modify or repeal rules, pursuant to ORS 183.310 to 183.550, for the administration and implementation of this section. [1973 c.92 §3]

468.732 Certification of hydroelectric power project; comments of affected state agencies. The Director of the Department of Environmental Quality shall approve or deny certification of any federally licensed or permitted activity related to hydroelectric power development, under section 401 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, P.L. 92-500, as amended. In making a decision as to whether to approve or deny such certification, the director shall:

(1) Solicit and consider the comments of all affected state agencies relative to adverse impacts on water quality caused by the project, according to sections 301, 302, 303, 306 and 307 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, P.L. 92-500, as amended.

(2) Approve or deny a certification only after making findings that the approval or denial is consistent with:

(a) Rules adopted by the Environmental Quality Commission on water quality;

(b) Provisions of sections 301, 302, 303, 306 and 307 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, P.L. 92-500, as amended;

(c) Standards established in ORS 469.371 and 543.017 and rules adopted by the Water

PN 150

JUN 19 1987

Memorandum

To: Field Supervisor, Ecological Services, Fish and Wildlife Service,
Portland Field Office, 727 NE. 24th Avenue, Portland, Oregon

From: *ASST.* Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation, Boise, Idaho

Subject: Request for List of Threatened and Endangered Species, Endangered
Species Act of 1973, Northern Douglas County Cooperative Water
Resources Study

We are requesting a list of endangered or threatened plant and animal species as required by the Endangered Species Act for the subject project. The principal feature of the project is a dam and reservoir with a capacity of 35,000 acre-feet. The dam would be located on Elk Creek in Douglas County, T. 23 S., R. 4 W., S. 4. Enclosed is a map which illustrates the location of the dam and reservoir.

Project purposes include: municipal and industrial water supply for the Yoncalla area; irrigation water for existing farmland (for conversion of dryland pasture to irrigated pasture); flood control; and instream flows for fish and wildlife.

Please send the list to this office, Attention: 150.

/s/ KENNETH R. PEDDE

Enclosure

bc: Commissioner, Washington, D.C.; Attention: WO-150 (L. Roberts)
RO 730
(each w/copy of enclosure)

RA Adair:cmc 6-17-87

Appendix E
Distribution List for the DEIS

Milltown Hill Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Distribution List

The draft environmental impact statement was distributed for review and comment to Federal, State and Local agencies, local libraries, and to individuals. During the review period, public hearings were held in Drain, Oregon, and in Roseburg, Oregon, to receive comments on the adequacy of the statement (See: Appendix G, Comments and Responses to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement).

I. STATEMENTS DISTRIBUTED FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT BY THE COMMISSIONER OF RECLAMATION

U.S. Department of the Interior

Bureau of Land Management, Oregon State Office,
Portland, OR
Bureau of Land Management, Eugene, OR
Bureau of Land Management, Roseburg District Office,
Roseburg, OR
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Portland, OR
* Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, OR
Geological Survey, Portland, OR
* National Park Service, Seattle, WA
Bureau of Mines, Spokane, WA
Bureau of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement,
Washington D.C.
Department of Interior Library, Washington D.C.
Western Regional Office -- Secretary of the Interior

Other Federal Agencies

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
Forest Service, Portland, OR
Soil Conservation Service, Roseburg, OR
* Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers, Portland, OR
* Department of Commerce, National Marine
Fisheries Service, Portland, OR
Department of Health and Human Services, Seattle, WA
Department of Housing and Urban Development, Portland, OR
HUD Regional Administrator, San Francisco, CA
Department of Labor, Washinton D.C.
Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration, Portland, OR
Department of Energy, Bonneville Power Administration

* Indicates the Agency or the Individual Submitted
Written Comments.

** Indicates the Individual Submitted Oral Comments at
the Hearings.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, Washington D.C.
General Services Administration, Washington D.C.
Interstate Commerce Commission, San Fransico, CA
* Environmental Protection Agency, Region X, Seattle, WA
Environmental Protection Agency, Portland, OR
Council on Environmental Quality, Washington D.C.

United States Senate

Mark O. Hatfield
Bob Packwood

United States House of Representatives

Les Aucoin
Ron Wyden
Mike Kopetski
Robert Smith
Peter Defazio

II. STATEMENTS DISTRIBUTED FOR REVIEW AND COMMENT
BY THE REGIONAL DIRECTOR, PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION

American Indian

Legislative Commission on Indian Services
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe
Confederated Tribes of Siletz
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde

State Agencies

- * Governor Barbara Roberts
- * Department of Agriculture
- Department of Environmental Quality
- * Department of Fish and Wildlife
- * Department of Forestry
- Department of Human Resources
- Gary Ball, District 15 Watermaster
- * Department of Water Resources
- * Martha Pagel, Assistant to the governor for Natural Resources
- Department of Energy
- Department of Geology and Mineral Industries
- * State Clearinghouse, Intergovernmental Relations Division
- Environmental Health Department
- Oregon State Highway Engineer
- * Division of State Lands
- Oregon State Historic Preservation Officer
- Parks and Recreation Division
- Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development

Parks and Recreation Division, Historic and
Preservation Office
Oregon Natural Heritage Program
Northwest Power Planning Council
* Department of Transportation, Highway Division, Region 3,
Roseburg, OR

State Senators/Representatives

Peg Jolin
Bill Bradbury
Larry Campbell
Bill Markham
John Kitzhaber
Sam Dominy
Rod Johnson
Jim Witty

County

Lane County Commissioners
Douglas County Counsel
Douglas County Planning Department
Douglas County Water Resources Survey
Douglas County Commissioners
Douglas County Parks Department
Douglas County Public Works Department
Umpqua Regional Council of Governments

City

Mayor Grant Levins, City of Drain
* Mayor Albert Applegate, City of Yoncalla
Mayor Stan McKnight, City of Sutherlin
Mayor Alfred A. Tyson, City of Elkton
Mayor Richard Smith, City of Oakland
Mayor Doug John, City of Roseburg

Organizations and Individuals

Oregon Rivers Council
Umpqua Basin Water Association
1000 Friends of Oregon
NW Environmental Defense Center
Oregon Environmental Council
Oregon Whitewater Enthusiasts
OSPIRG
Southern OR. Resources Alliance
Roseburg Rod and Gun Club
Steamboaters
Salmon & Steelhead Anglers
Water Watch of Oregon

Izaak Walton League of America, Roseburg
 Assoc. NW Steelheaders
 Izaak Walton League of America, Portland
 Oregon Chapter Sierra Club
 Oregon Trout Association
 Oregon Wildlife Federation, Hillsboro
 Oregon Wildlife Federation, Springfield
 Dames and Moore, Goleta, CA
 Pacific Fisheries Enhancement
 Trout Unlimited
 Umpqua Fisherman's Association
 Umpqua Valley Audubon Society
 Eagles View Management Co.
 North Douglas Cutters, Inc.
 Robert Braley
 John Botwinik
 Harold Crouch
 William Dedmore
 Gideon Jackson
 Gregory Jones
 Antoine Otten
 Judith Tucker
 Kathryn Weathers
 Carol Whipple
 Mildred Whipple
 Jimmie Janik
 ** Donna Woolley
 Fred Dayton
 Timothy J. Sercombe
 * Dale Bessett
 ** Fred Whitford
 ** Ron Yockim
 Don Wilkinson
 Dan Russell
 ** Mabelle MacDonald
 Doris and George Bartlett
 Nancy M. Benzel
 ** Francis P. Coggsell
 ** Albert B. Cook
 Harry A. Cool
 Roy E. Cox
 Bill Ewing
 ** Leonard S. Gondek
 James F. Gosson
 ** Grant S. Levins
 Jeff H. Mize
 Joyce J. Morgan
 Glen C. Myers
 Antoine Otten
 Marian F. Thies
 Martin A. Thompson
 ** Jim Thorp

Manley A. Watson
 Kyra S. Whitford
 Tim C. Whitford
 M. John Youngquist
 William and Dorothy Austin
 Webster E. Briggs
 Grant A. Brown
 Christine J. Conroy
 Joe M. Cooper
 Steven R. Denney
 Ken J. Hendrick
 ** Art R. Kramert
 Jim A. McClain
 Nancy L. Murphy
 ** Doris L. Wadsworth
 * George E. Winterbotham
 Karl Wirkus
 Edward N. Wood
 Jeff Mize
 Brian O'Neill
 Bruce Shaner
 Niels West
 Steve Miller
 Tucson Myer
 Candy Matsukado
 David Kurkoski
 John Geddie
 Harry E. Wilson
 John Fagan
 Nick Facatos
 Gerald Bacon
 Fred C. Schmidt
 * Randy Crockett
 ** Grant Brown - (Umpqua Fishermen's Association)
 ** Gary Ball - (Watermaster, District 15)

Libraries

Yoncalla Public Library
 Umpqua Community College Library
 Oakland Public Library
 Multnomah County Library
 Drain Public Library
 Douglas County Library
 Sutherlin Public Library

Appendix F
Threatened and Endangered Species

PN 150

JUN 19 1987

Memorandum

To: Field Supervisor, Ecological Services, Fish and Wildlife Service,
Portland Field Office, 727 NE. 24th Avenue, Portland, Oregon

From: ~~ASST~~ Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation, Boise, Idaho

Subject: Request for List of Threatened and Endangered Species, Endangered
Species Act of 1973, Northern Douglas County Cooperative Water
Resources Study

We are requesting a list of endangered or threatened plant and animal species as required by the Endangered Species Act for the subject project. The principal feature of the project is a dam and reservoir with a capacity of 35,000 acre-feet. The dam would be located on Elk Creek in Douglas County, T. 23 S., R. 4 W., S. 4. Enclosed is a map which illustrates the location of the dam and reservoir.

Project purposes include: municipal and industrial water supply for the Yoncalla area; irrigation water for existing farmland (for conversion of dryland pasture to irrigated pasture); flood control; and instream flows for fish and wildlife.

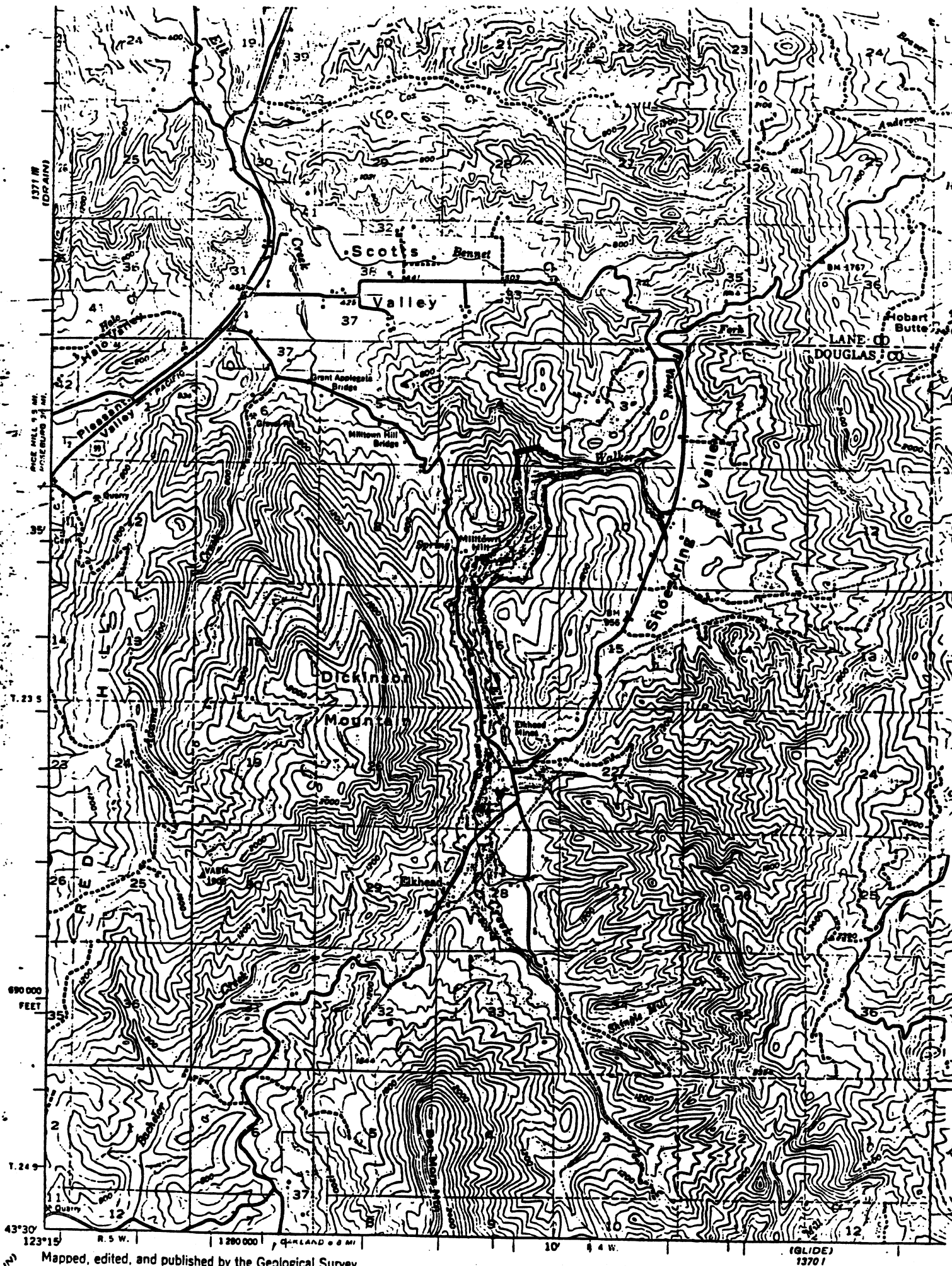
Please send the list to this office, Attention: 150.

/s/ KENNETH R. PEDDE

Enclosure

bc: Commissioner, Washington, D.C.; Attention: WO-150 (L. Roberts)
RO 730
(each w/copy of enclosure)

RA Adair:cmc 6-17-87



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT
MEMORANDUM

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

June 29, 1987.

TO: Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation, Boise, Idaho.

FROM: Field Supervisor, Portland Field Office, Portland, Oregon

SUBJECT: Request for List for Threatened and Endangered Species, Endangered Species Act of 1973, Northern Douglas County Cooperative Water Resources Study

This is in regards to your memorandum dated June 19, 1987 and received by us on June 22, 1987 requesting a list of endangered and threatened species as required by the Endangered Species Act for the subject project.

Our Planning Aid Memorandum dated April 29, 1986 included comments and a species list for Milltown Hill Dam and Reservoir (Attachment A; case reference no: 1-7-86-1-98) pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. The list, which included Columbian white-tailed deer (endangered), bald eagle (threatened), and Oregon chub (candidate), is still accurate. Therefore, you may consider the comments in the "Threatened and Endangered Species" section of the our Planning Aid Memorandum, including the related Attachments A and B as our response pursuant to Section 7(c). You may begin a biological assessment if you determine this action to be a "construction project".


for Russell D. Peterson



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION
FEDERAL BUILDING & U.S. COURTHOUSE
BOX 042 550 WEST FORT STREET
BOISE, IDAHO 83724-0042



PH 152

FEB 28 1991

Memorandum

To: Field Supervisor, Ecological Services, Portland Field Office,
2600 S.E. 98th Avenue, Suite 100, Portland OR 97266

From: Regional Environmental Officer, Bureau of Reclamation, Boise ID

Subject: Request for List of Threatened and Endangered Species Under the
Endangered Species Act of 1973, Milltown Hill Project, Oregon
(Endangered Species Act)

In accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, we are requesting a list of threatened and endangered plant and animal species that could occur in the Milltown Hill Dam and Reservoir project area. This project, if approved, would be constructed by Douglas County, Oregon, under the Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) Small Reclamation Projects Act. To meet NEPA compliance, Douglas County has hired Campbell-Craven Environmental Consultants to prepare an environmental assessment for the project. Therefore, we wish to designate Campbell-Craven as a non-federal representative responsible for writing the Section 7 biological assessment. Campbell-Craven is in concurrence with that request. Once Campbell-Craven has assembled the biological assessment, Reclamation will review and finalize it before forwarding it to your agency for consultation.

We have included a brief description of the project, plus maps illustrating the dam, reservoir, and irrigation service area and a map showing the Holbart Butte rock quarry location. If you have any questions concerning this request, please call Richard Prange at FTS 554-1208.

RICHARD H. PRANGE

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Lowell Hayes, Area Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Roseburg
District, Roseburg OR
Mr. Richard Cravens, Campbell-Craven Environmental Consultants,
Portland OR
(all w/o encl)

(ATTACHED TO THE
PLANNING AID MEMORANDUM ()
OF APRIL 29, 1986

LISTED AND PROPOSED ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES AND
CANDIDATE SPECIES THAT MAY OCCUR IN THE AREA OF THE PROPOSED
MILLTOWN HILL DAM AND RESERVOIR PROJECT

1-7-86-I-98

LISTED:

Columbian white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus leucurus) (E)
Bald eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus) (T)

PROPOSED:

None

CANDIDATE:

Oregon chub (Hybopsis crameri) (2)

- (E) -Endangered (T) -Threatened (CH) - Critical Habitat
(1) -Category 1: Taxa for which the Fish and Wildlife Service has
sufficient biological information to support a proposal to list
as endangered or threatened.
(2) -Category 2: Taxa which existing information indicates may warrant
listing, but for which substantial biological information to
support a proposed rule is lacking.

Attachment A

LISTED AND PROPOSED ENDANGERED AND THREATENED SPECIES AND
CANDIDATE SPECIES THAT MAY OCCUR IN THE AREA OF THE PROPOSED
HAWTHORNE DAM AND RESERVOIR PROJECT

1-7-86-1-100

LISTED:

Columbian white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus leucurus) (E)
Bald eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus) (T)

PROPOSED:

None

CANDIDATE:

Oregon chub (Hybopsis crameri) (2)

- (E) -Endangered (T) -Threatened (CH) - Critical Habitat
(1) -Category 1: Taxa for which the Fish and Wildlife Service has
sufficient biological information to support a proposal to list
as endangered or threatened.
(2) -Category 2: Taxa which existing information indicates may warrant
listing, but for which substantial biological information to
support a proposed rule is lacking.

Attachment A



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION
FEDERAL BUILDING & U.S. COURTHOUSE
BOX 043-550 WEST FORT STREET
BOISE, IDAHO 83724-0043

IN REPLY
REFER TO: PN 730/150

NOV 18 1987

Memorandum

To: Field Supervisor, Ecological Services, Fish and Wildlife Service,
Portland Field Office, P.O. Box 1487, Portland, Oregon 97232

From: Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation, Boise, Idaho

Subject: Northern Douglas County Cooperative Water Resources Study, Oregon,
Biological Assessment in Accordance with Endangered Species Act

Enclosed is a biological assessment on the subject project. We have concluded that the proposed project would have no adverse impact to the Columbian white-tailed deer and possible minor beneficial impact to the bald eagle and peregrine falcon. We would appreciate a written response to our conclusion based on this biological assessment.

John W. Keys III

Enclosure

bc: R0 152, 730 (w/enc1.)

BIOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT OF POTENTIAL IMPACTS TO
COLUMBIAN WHITE-TAILED DEER AND BALD EAGLES FROM
CONSTRUCTION OF THE MILLTOWN HILL DAM AND RESERVOIR
DOUGLAS COUNTY, OREGON

I. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Elk Creek drainage in Northern Douglas County, Oregon, suffers from a poor ground-water resource and low summer stream flows. The low summer flows result from low rainfall during the months of June, July, and August. These water resource limitations constrain urban, industrial, and agricultural growth and development. The low stream flows adversely impact the stream fishery and water quality.

During the past two decades, Douglas County has investigated several alternatives to remedy their water-related problems. Their present study, in which they are cooperating with the Bureau of Reclamation, focuses on a multipurpose storage facility on Elk Creek approximately 4 miles north of Elkhead, just below the confluence with Walker Creek (see attached map).

The plan now under consideration includes a storage facility that would impound a maximum of 36,000 acre-feet of water. A pipe system would supply water under gravity pressure to the communities of Yoncalla and Rice Hill for municipal, industrial, and small tract (less than 10 acres) irrigation. This system would also provide water to irrigate lands in the Yoncalla and Scotts Valleys. Farmland receiving irrigation for the first time would total about 4,520 acres, and another 822 acres would receive a supplemental water supply. About 3,300 acre-feet of storage would be reserved for instream flows primarily to enhance steelhead trout and coho salmon production. The reservoir would also result in some flood control benefits to the city of Drain.

The reservoir would inundate up to 845 acres of private land. New lands acquired for wildlife mitigation purposes would include several small plots of 2.5 to 5 acres for big game and about 70 acres for upland game habitat enhancement. These lands would be adjacent to the reservoir area. About 190 acres of wetland habitat would be created by construction of a subimpoundment near the upper end of the reservoir, and would enhance waterfowl and several species of nongame wildlife. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has recommended leaving "all live and dead trees in and around the reservoir for nesting, perching or other uses by osprey, eagles and other nongame wildlife until it can be determined what and if any vegetation must be removed" (George Keister/Jim Collins, ODFW, personal communication). This recommendation will be considered in formulating mitigation plans for the project.

Recreation associated with the reservoir would include about 30 picnic units, a boat ramp, and 30 camping units. The recreation plan would probably limit boat speeds to 5 miles per hour and include a warm water fishery. The upstream end of the reservoir would provide dispersed, consumptive, and nonconsumptive recreation opportunities associated with the wetlands area.

II. DESCRIPTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT

Vegetation in the proposed reservoir area consists of a mix of coniferous forest (Douglas fir), mixed coniferous/deciduous forest (fir, madrone, Oregon white oak), and small stands and riparian strips of deciduous forest (primarily oak and willow). Most of the area is in private ownership and consists of pasture and brushy clearings.

According to information provided by the Portland Field Office of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)(1), the area supports black-tailed deer (estimated density 30 deer/square mile), Roosevelt elk, coyote, bobcat, mink, beaver, muskrat, and opossum. The primary upland game species are band-tailed pigeon and turkey with smaller numbers of blue and ruffed grouse, ring-necked pheasant, mountain and valley quail, and mourning doves. Waterfowl use is very limited because of the lack of wetland habitat.

A list of threatened and endangered species was provided in a FWS Planning Aid Memorandum (PAM) in April, 1986, (1) and confirmed in a memorandum dated June 29, 1987 (2). Two species were listed that may occur in the project area; the Columbian white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus leucurus) as endangered, and the bald eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus) as threatened. In addition, the Oregon chub (Hybopsis crameri) is listed as a category 2 candidate species.

The ODFW has reported the presence of the American peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus anatum) in the Sutherlin area near Plat I and Cooper Creek Reservoirs over several past winters as well as an active eyrie along the North Umpqua above Steamboat Creek. This species, federally listed as endangered, should be added to the FWS list for the project area.

The Columbian white-tailed deer is one of 30 subspecies of white-tailed deer found in North and Central America (3). Originally found in lowlands of southwestern Washington and western Oregon, this subspecies is now found in only two locations. One population estimated at 300-350 is found on and adjacent to the Columbian White-tailed Deer National Wildlife Refuge in Washington near the mouth of the Columbia River (4). The other population is estimated at 3,000 deer and inhabits about 465 square miles of oak woodland within the interior valleys of the Umpqua River Basin (5).

A recent study (3) demonstrated that Columbian white-tailed deer preferred grass-shrub, oak-savanna, open oak, closed oak, riparian, and conifer habitats; they utilized grassland, oak-conifer, oak-madrone, and madrone habitats less frequently. Lowland riparian systems were shown to be a very important component in all life stages of the species as well as serving as corridors for dispersal and geographic expansion (3). Maximum deer densities occurred in areas of about 50 percent woodland cover (3). Columbian white-tailed deer and black-tailed deer showed a local geographic and ecological segregation throughout the study area (3,4).

The highest densities of white-tailed deer in Douglas County are found along the North Umpqua River between Glide and Wilbur (3). They are found in the Calapooya Creek drainage adjacent to the Elk Creek drainage, but are not known to occur in Elk Creek. There are no current plans to introduce this species into the Elk Creek drainage (personal communication with George Keister, ODFW, Roseburg).

Bald eagles nest and winter in several locations throughout western Oregon. Oregon has the second highest population of nesting bald eagles in the seven-state Pacific bald eagle recovery area (Washington, Oregon, California, Idaho, Nevada, Montana, and Wyoming) (6). There are currently about 11 active bald eagle nesting territories in Douglas County, including one on the North Umpqua River northeast of Roseburg, two in the Cascade Mountains, and eight along the lower Umpqua River (personal communication with Jim Collins, ODFW, Roseburg). The U.S Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) Pacific Bald Eagle Recovery Plan (6) states there are no bald eagles using the project area at this time. However, George Keister and Jim Collins (ODFW, personal communication) reported that ODFW winter raptor surveys along the North Umpqua in January have consistently recorded one to two adults within the reach between Wilber and Glide.

According to the Pacific Bald Eagle Recovery Plan (6), the primary threats to bald eagle populations in Zone 12 (Willamette/Umpqua Basins) include logging, human disturbance, and shooting. The proposed management directions outlined in the Recovery Plan are to "identify and protect nesting and feeding areas" and "manage potential nesting habitat for eagles."

As previously mentioned, the American peregrine falcon, one of three subspecies of the peregrine falcon, breeds and winters in northern Douglas County. The peregrines' preferred nesting habitat is in canyons with steep walls. It preys heavily on waterfowl, shorebirds, and other birds. This species suffered sharp population declines beginning in the 1950's largely because of the widespread use of organochlorine pesticides. The banning of the use of such pesticides coupled with activities such as the reintroduction of captive-bred peregrines into the wild is resulting in an increasing population nationwide.

The Pacific Coast Recovery Plan for the peregrine falcon has targeted 30 breeding pairs for its recovery goal in Oregon (7). Several management options presented in the plan include prevention of nestsite disturbance; manipulation of the wild population; continuous inventory, study, and monitoring of the wild population; identification of habitat needs; investigation of mortality factors such as shooting, powerline collisions, disease, parasitism, and predation; identification of habitat needs, including foraging areas; evaluation of suitability of historical and potential nest sites; recommendation of critical habitats; and implementation of a public information and education program (7).

III. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND MITIGATING MEASURES

Since the Columbian white-tailed deer is not presently found in the project area, the project would have no impact on existing populations. Measures to mitigate for black-tailed deer and other wildlife species on lands adjacent to the proposed reservoir may provide limited habitat for the white-tailed deer if it should eventually spread its range into the Elk Creek Drainage.

Construction of a reservoir at the Milltown Hill site could result in an increase of the prey base for the bald eagle. The proposed wetland area should increase waterfowl production and wintering habitat in an area that presently has little of either. The reservoir would be managed for a resident fishery which would also create a potential food source for bald eagles. Current plans call for the retention of several large trees in the area which could function as both nest sites and perches. It would be important to protect any nesting bald eagles that may eventually establish territories in the project area; this possibility should be addressed in a reservoir management plan.

Construction of the Milltown Hill Reservoir and creation of a wetland area could also benefit prey species (primarily ducks and shorebirds) for the peregrine falcon.

IV. CONCLUSIONS

We feel the construction of a reservoir at the Milltown Hill site would have no present impact to the Columbian white-tailed deer and could have a minor beneficial impact to the bald eagle by creating potentially suitable nesting and feeding habitat and to the peregrine falcon by enhancing this species' prey base.

LITERATURE CITED

1. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Planning Aid Memorandum to Bureau of Reclamation dated April 29, 1986: "Elk and Calapooya Creeks Project, Douglas County, Oregon." 24 pages.
2. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Memorandum to Bureau of Reclamation dated June 29, 1987: "Request for List of Threatened and Endangered Species, Endangered Species Act of 1973, Northern Douglas County Cooperative Water Resources Study."
3. Smith, W. P. 1981. Status and Habitat Use of Columbian White-tailed Deer in Douglas County, Oregon. Phd dissertation. 273 pages.
4. Smith, W. P. 1987. Dispersion and Habitat Use By Sympatric Columbian White-tailed Deer and Columbian Black-tailed Deer. J. Mamm 68(2): 337-347.
5. Smith, W. P. 1985. Current geographic distribution and abundance of Columbian white-tailed deer, Odocoileus virginianus leucurus (Douglas). Northwest Sci., 59:243-251.
6. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 1986. Recovery Plan for the Pacific Bald Eagle. U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland, Oregon. 160 pages.
7. The Pacific Coast American Peregrine Falcon Recovery Team. 1982. Pacific Coast Recovery Plan for the American Peregrine Falcon. 87 pages.



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Portland Field Office
727 NE 24th Avenue
Portland, OR 97232

December 22, 1987

Re: 1-7-88-I-20

John W. Keys, III
U. S. Bureau of Reclamation
Box 043-550 West Fork Street
Boise, ID 83724-0043

Dear Mr. Keys:

This is in response to your letter dated November 18, 1987 that was received by us on November 27, 1987, transmitting your biological assessment of the impacts on Columbian White-tailed Deer, Peregrine Falcons, and Bald Eagles from the proposed MillTown Hill Dam and Reservoir Project, Douglas County, Oregon.

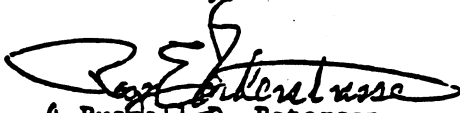
We have reviewed the biological assessment and concur with your determination of no adverse effect on the above species.

The requirements established under Section 7(a)(2) and 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, have been met, thereby concluding the consultation process.

Our comments regarding wildlife mitigation will be addressed in a forthcoming report.

We appreciate your concerns for listed species.

Sincerely,


Russell D. Peterson
Field Supervisor

DS:lg

cc:
R1 FWE-SE
PFO-ES
ODFW (Nongame) Portland, Roseburg



U.S. DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
PACIFIC NORTHWEST REGION
FEDERAL BUILDING & U.S. COURTHOUSE
BOX 042 550 WEST FORT STREET
BOISE, IDAHO 83724-0042



PN 152

FEB 28 1991

Memorandum

To: Field Supervisor, Ecological Services, Portland Field Office,
2600 S.E. 98th Avenue, Suite 100, Portland OR 97266

From: Regional Environmental Officer, Bureau of Reclamation, Boise ID

Subject: Request for List of Threatened and Endangered Species Under the
Endangered Species Act of 1973, Milltown Hill Project, Oregon
(Endangered Species Act)

In accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, we are requesting a list of threatened and endangered plant and animal species that could occur in the Milltown Hill Dam and Reservoir project area. This project, if approved, would be constructed by Douglas County, Oregon, under the Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) Small Reclamation Projects Act. To meet NEPA compliance, Douglas County has hired Campbell-Craven Environmental Consultants to prepare an environmental assessment for the project. Therefore, we wish to designate Campbell-Craven as a non-federal representative responsible for writing the Section 7 biological assessment. Campbell-Craven is in concurrence with that request. Once Campbell-Craven has assembled the biological assessment, Reclamation will review and finalize it before forwarding it to your agency for consultation.

We have included a brief description of the project, plus maps illustrating the dam, reservoir, and irrigation service area and a map showing the Holbart Butte rock quarry location. If you have any questions concerning this request, please call Richard Prange at FTS 554-1208.

RICHARD H. PRANGE

Enclosure

cc: Mr. Lowell Hayes, Area Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Roseburg
District, Roseburg OR
Mr. Richard Cravens, Campbell-Craven Environmental Consultants,
Portland OR
(all w/o encl)



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Portland Field Station
2600 S.E. 98th Avenue, Suite 100
Portland, Oregon 97266

March 28, 1991

Re: 1-7-91-SP-53

Richard Prange
Bureau of Reclamation
Pacific Northwest Region
Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse
Box 043-550 West Fort Street
Boise, Idaho 83724-0043

Dear Mr. Prange:

As requested by your letter, dated February 28, 1991, and received by us on March 4, 1991, we have attached a list (Attachment A) of endangered and threatened species that may be present within the area of the proposed Milltown Hill Dam and Reservoir project area. The list fulfills the requirement of the Fish and Wildlife Service under Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 USC 1531 et seq.). Your requirements under the Act are outlined in Attachment B.

The northern spotted owl was listed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as threatened in July 1990. We have no specific occurrence data on the spotted owl for your area, but encourage you to contact the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife or the Roseburg District of the Bureau of Land Management for available information. An assessment should be made as to whether your activities will affect spotted owl habitat. Survey guidelines have been developed and are enclosed.

Should your biological assessment determine that a listed species is likely to be adversely affected by the project, the Bureau of Reclamation should request formal section 7 consultation through this office. Even if the biological assessment shows a "no effect" or "beneficial effect" situation, we would appreciate receiving a copy for our information.

We have also included a list of candidate species presently under review by this Service. Candidate species have no protection under the Endangered Species Act but are included for your consideration as it is possible candidates could become formal proposals and be listed prior to project completion. If you determine your project may affect candidate species, you are not required to perform a biological assessment or to consult with the Fish and Wildlife Service. If early evaluation of your project indicates that it is likely to adversely impact a candidate species, the Service recommends that the Bureau of Reclamation request technical assistance from this office.

Rough Allocarya, a Category 1 candidate plant, is currently a high priority species for listing by the Service. To the best of our knowledge, surveys have not been conducted to determine the presence of this species in the

project area. Surveys would provide a better information base upon which to evaluate impacts of your project on the rough allocarya. A brief description of the plant, its phenology, and habitat association has been provided (Attachment C). Further information on this particular species can be obtained from the Natural Heritage Program in Portland, Oregon.

There is also concern with the Umpqua chub, formerly the Oregon chub (*Oregonichthys crameri*). Current and potential activities in the Elk Creek drainage include bank stabilization (riprapping), flood control, and the introduction of nonindigenous warmwater fishes. These same activities led to the decline of *O. crameri*, a species currently under petition for listing as endangered, in the Willamette River drainage.

Your interest in endangered species is appreciated. If you have any additional questions regarding your responsibilities under the Act, please contact Gary Miller at our office, phone (503) 231-6179 or FTS 429-6179. All correspondence should include the above referenced case number.

Sincerely,



Russell D. Peterson
Field Supervisor

Attachments

cc: Mr. R. Cravens, Campbell-Craven Environmental Consultants, Portland, OR
PFO-ES
ODFW (Nongame)
BLM (Roseburg)
ONHP

LISTED SPECIES^{1/}

Northern spotted owl^{2/} *Strix occidentalis caurina* (T) .

None

Umpqua chub (2) *Oregonichthys kalawetseti* (D)
Species has been located in the Elk Creek Drainage

Western pond turtle (2) *Clemmys marmorata*
Species has been located in the Elk Creek Drainage

Rough Allocarya (1) *Plagiobothrys hirtus* var. *hirtus*
Species has been located in boggy, marshy sites in grasslands

(E) - Endangered (T) - Threatened (CH) - Critical
(S) - Suspected (D) - Documented Habitat

- (1) - Category 1: Taxa for which the Fish and Wildlife Service has sufficient biological information to support a proposal to list as endangered or threatened.
- (2) - Category 2: Taxa for which existing information indicates may warrant listing, but for which substantial biological information to support a proposed rule is lacking.
- (3A)- Category 3A: Taxa for which the Service has persuasive evidence of extinction.
- (3B)- Category 3B: Names that on the basis of current taxonomic understanding do not represent taxa meeting the Act's definition of "species."

- 1/ U. S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service,
April 15, 1990, Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and
Plants, 50 CFR 17.11 and 17.12.
- 2/ Federal Register Vol. 55, No. 123, June 26, 1990
Final Rule-Northern Spotted Owl
- 3/ Federal Register Vol. 54, No. 4, January 6, 1989 Notice of
Review-Animals
- 4/ Federal Register Vol. 55, No. 36, February 21, 1990 Notice
of Review-Plants

Appendix G

**Comments and Responses to the
Draft Environmental Impact Statement**

CAMPBELL-CRAVEN
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

Environmental Reports
Permit Coordination
Baseline Studies
Ecological Analyses

9170 SW Elrose
Tigard, Oregon 97224
Phone (503) 639-7200
FAX (503) 620-1657

December 10, 1990

File

Ms. Theresa Weber
Oregon Natural Heritage Data Base
1205 N.W. 25th Avenue
Portland Oregon 97210

SUBJECT: Milltown Hill Project, Threatened and Endangered
Species Assessment.

Dear Ms. Weber:

Campbell-Craven has been retained by Douglas County to evaluate the Milltown Hill project area and surrounding areas regarding the presence of threatened and endangered species of plants and animals. The project area is in Township T23S, Range R4W, Sections 3,9,10,15,16,21,22,27,28,33, and 34.

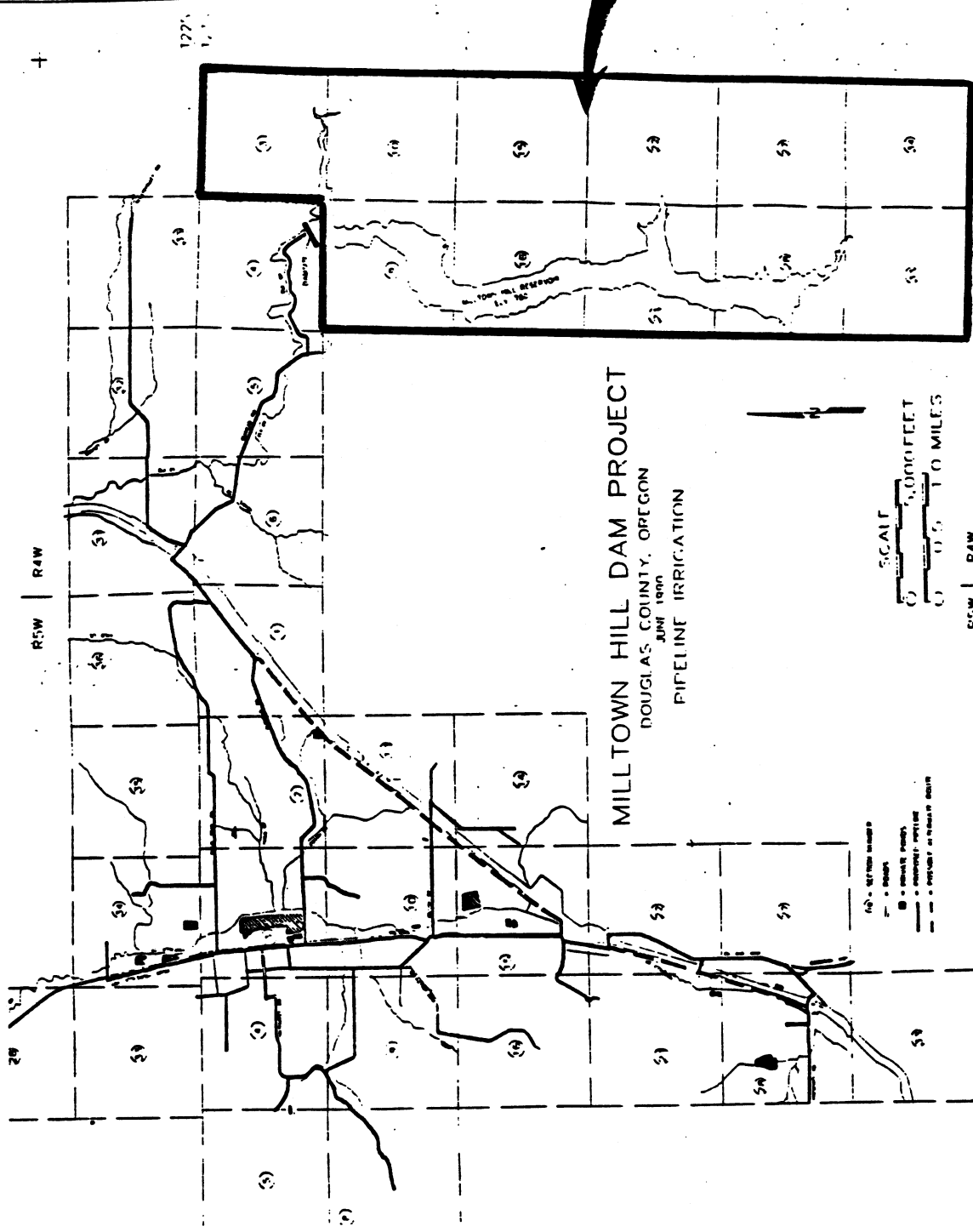
We request that your organization review its records to determine if threatened and endangered species have been identified within the project boundary or near it. If so, would you please provide a listing of the species and the locations.

If you need additional information or have questions call me or Tom Boucher at Campbell-Craven 639-7200.

Sincerely,



Richard E. Craven



MILLTOWN HILL DAM PROJECT
DOUGLAS COUNTY, OREGON
JUNE 1966
PIPELINE IRRIGATION

SCALE
0 1,000 FEET
0 0.5 1 MILES

Legend:
- - - SECTION NUMBER
- - - DRAIN
- - - DRAINAGE CANAL
- - - PROPERTY LINE
- - - PROPERTY AS SHOWN ON MAP

MILLTOWN HILL
PROJECT

Oregon Natural Heritage Data Base

1205 NW 25th Avenue
Portland Oregon 97210
503 229 5078

January 4, 1991

Campbell Craven
Attn: Tom Boucher
9170 SW Elrose
Tigard, OR 97224

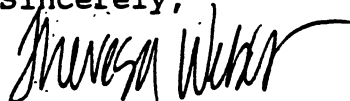
Dear Mr. Boucher,

There were no elements in our system of rare, threatened or endangered species for the area designated in your request; Township 23s, Range 4w, sections 3, 9, 10, 15, 21, 22, 27, 28, 33 and 34.

However, please remember that an absence of information in a given area does not mean there are no rare, threatened or endangered species there.

Also enclosed is the invoice for the search.

Sincerely,



Theresa Weber
Data handler

CAMPBELL-CRAVEN
ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS

Environmental Reports
Regulatory Coordination
Biological Studies
Technical Analyses

9170 SW Hirose
Tigard, Oregon 97224
Phone (503) 639-7200
FAX (503) 620-1057

March 27, 1991

Mr. Russell Peterson
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
2600 S.E. 98th Avenue
Suite 100
Portland, OR 97266

Subject: Proposed Milltown Hill Project
Elk Creek, Umpqua River, Oregon
Section 7 Consultation

Dear Mr. Peterson:

We have not received the list of threatened or endangered species from USFWS however, I have confirmed that the spotted owl will be included. A proposed scope of work has been prepared to address Section 7 Consultation for the proposed project.

Please review the scope and provide your written response as to the adequacy of the scope to address Section 7 Consultation.

Sincerely,



Richard E. Craven

cc Lowell Hayes, BLM
Jim Fessler, ODFW

RECEIVED

MAR 29 1991

PORTLAND FIELD STATION

SCOPE OF WORK FOR CONDUCTING SPOTTED OWL SURVEYS IN THE
VICINITY OF PROPOSED MILLTOWN HILL DAMSITE
(SW1/4 SE1/4, SECTION 4, T.23S., R.4W., W.M.)

1.0 Area of Survey

Suitable Spotted Owl habitat within 1.2 miles from the perimeter of the proposed dam site will be surveyed.

2.0 Number and Timing of Surveys

As project activity may begin in early 1992, a one year census involving six visits is proposed. The first survey will be conducted during the end of April 1991, with subsequent visits made at 2-3 week intervals. Four of the visits will be conducted before the 30th of June.

3.0 Survey Method

Census points will be established (See attached map), which provides complete audio coverage of the survey area. After sunset, a minimum of ten minutes will be spent at each census point imitating and listening for Spotted Owl calls. If owls respond during the nighttime survey, a daytime follow-up survey will be conducted to determine bird status and activity center.

Some proposed census points may not be callable due to private ownership and potential disturbance of domestic dogs in nearby residences. In these situations alternative stations or daytime surveys may be required.

4.0 Reporting

For each survey a summary will be prepared describing: survey route and stations called, time and weather information and descriptions of any owl responses.

5.0 Personnel:

Barry Schreiber

B.S. 1976 Wildlife Science, OSU

M.S. 1987 Forest Ecology

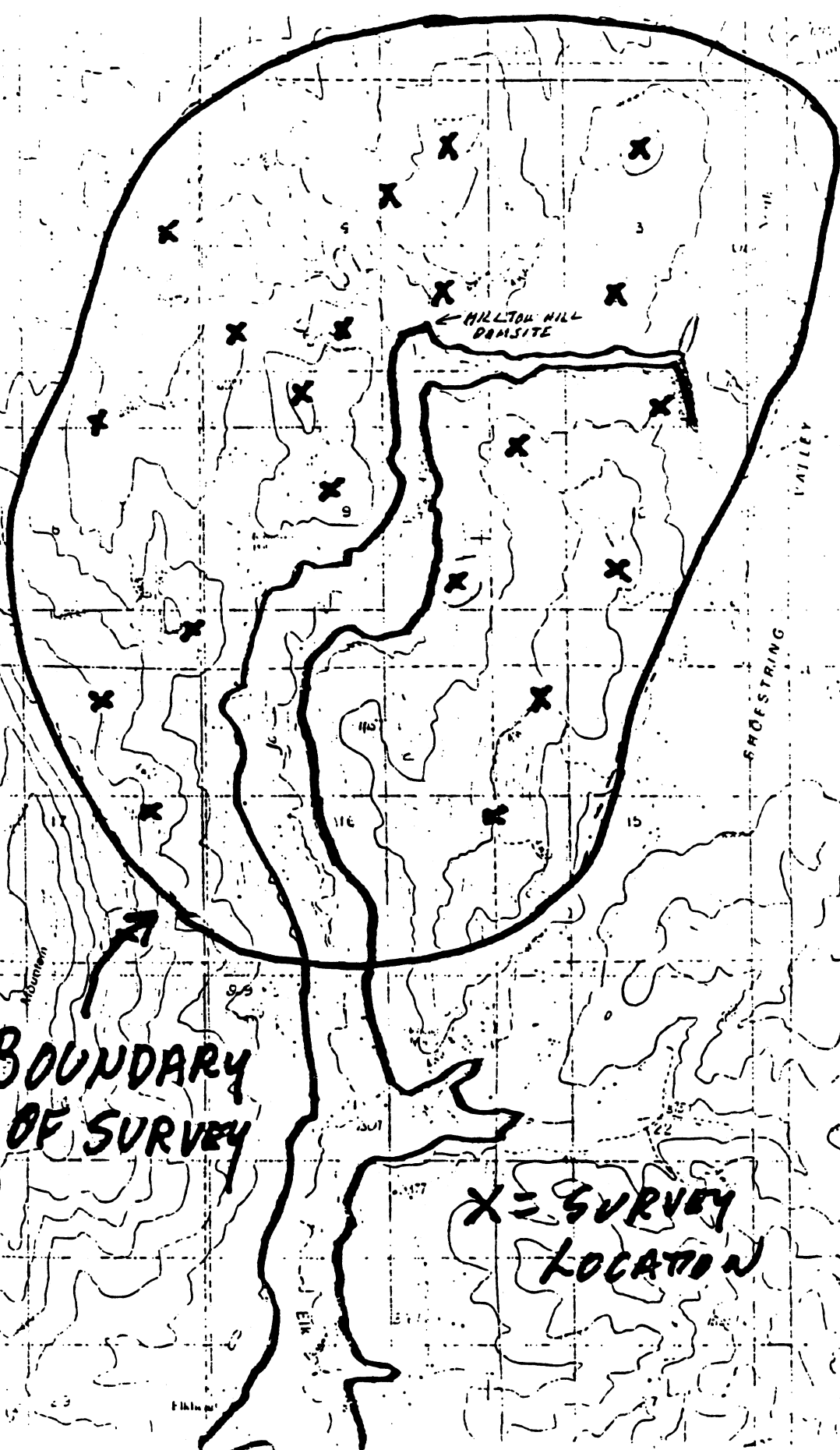
Completed 3 spotted owl surveys in 1990 for ODFW and 2 private consultants. Crew leader for spotted owl monitoring program on Surslaw National Forest, 1987.

BOUNDARY
OF SURVEY

X = SURVEY
LOCATION

HILLTON HILL
DAM SITE

SHOESTRING
VALLEY





United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Portland Field Station
2600 S.E. 98th Avenue, Suite 100
Portland, Oregon 97266

April 26, 1991

1-7-88-I-20-GM

Richard E. Craven
Campbell-Craven Environmental Consultants
9170 S.W. Elrose
Tigard, Oregon 97224


Dear Mr. Craven:

This is in response to your letter of March 27, 1991, and received in this office on March 29, 1991, regarding spotted owl survey efforts on the Milltown Hill Project.

The scope of the survey effort appears to follow the guidelines recently released by the Service. A copy of the survey guidelines is enclosed and we recommend you follow the guidelines to assess whether spotted owls will be affected by the Milltown Hill project.

We appreciate your concern for conducting adequate spotted owl surveys for the Milltown Hill Project. If you have any questions regarding the survey guidelines, please contact Gary Miller of this office at (503) 231-6179.

Sincerely,


Russell D. Peterson
Field Supervisor

Enclosure

GSM:mm:88I20



United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Portland Field Station
2600 S.E. 98th Avenue, Suite 100
Portland, Oregon 97266

GF
(SRPA)

BUREAU OF
RECLAMATION
OFFICIAL FILE COPY

DEC 13 1991

TO	INIT	DATE
150	DM	12/17
151	DOC	12/17
151P		
151A		
FILE		

December

1-7-92-I-25

Memorandum

To: Regional Environmental Officer, Bureau of Reclamation, Boise, ID

From: Field Supervisor, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Portland Field Office, Portland, Oregon

Subject: Biological Assessment of Potential Effects of the Milltown Hill Project on Federally Listed and Candidate Plant and Animal Species

This responds to your November 1, 1991, letter, that was received by this office on November 4, 1991, requesting comments on the Biological Assessment of Potential Effects of the Milltown Hill Project on Listed and Candidate Plant and Animal Species (Assessment), Douglas County, Oregon.

General Comments

The Assessment does not address the potential impacts of the construction of a gravity pressure pipeline system or the changes in agricultural lands receiving irrigation water from the reservoir.

The distribution of the northern spotted owl (Strix occidentalis caurina) extends from British Columbia, south to the Pit River in northern California (Thomas et al. 1990), and not to central Mexico as stated on p. 6 of the Assessment.

Specific Comments

Based upon the information contained in the Assessment, we concur with your determination that the proposed project would not likely adversely affect the federally listed Columbian white-tailed deer (Odocoileus virginianus leucurus), bald eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus), peregrine falcon (Falco peregrinus), or northern spotted owl. The protection of 767 acres of suitable habitat for the Columbian white-tailed deer should provide beneficial effects and aid in its' recovery.

Species specific impacts to the federal candidate species Umpqua chub (Oregonichthys kalawatseti), northwestern pond turtle (Clemmys marmorata), or rough allocarya (Plagiobothrys hirtus) cannot be properly addressed at this time due to inadequate population information. Surveys are needed to determine existing distributions for all three species, especially the rough allocarya, which is currently under administrative review for listing.

V X ENV-700
GF
(Biological Assessment)

We strongly discourage the introduction of warm-water fish species into the proposed reservoir, as this action may lead to predation on the Umpqua chub.

If the northwestern pond turtle is present in the area, the proposed wetland mitigation area may provide suitable habitat. If the pond turtle becomes a federally listed species, management recommendations would be made to sustain local populations.

The requirements established under Section 7(a)(2) and 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 USC 1531 et. seq.), have been met, thereby concluding the consultation process.

Should new information indicate listed or proposed threatened or endangered species to be present in your project area, you should be aware of your continuing responsibilities as described under Sections 7(a) and (c) of the Act.

We appreciate the opportunity to informally consult with you on the proposed project. If you have any additional questions regarding endangered species, or if we can be of any further assistance, please contact Richard Szlemp of our office at (503) 231-6179 or FTS 429-6179.

Sincerely,


for Russel D. Peterson
Field Supervisor

cc: PFO-ES

RRS:rs:92I25

LITERATURE CITED

Thomas, J.W., E.D. Forsman, J.B. Lint, E.C. Meslow, B.R. Noon, and J. Verner. 1990. A conservation strategy for the northern spotted owl. A Report by the Interagency Scientific Committee to address the conservation of the northern spotted owl. U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, and U.S. Department of Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service. Portland, Oregon. 427pp.

- APPENDIX G -

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

PUBLIC HEARINGS

Introduction

The draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) was filed with EPA December 11, 1991 as statement number DES 91-33. The comment period continued until February 11, 1992. The DEIS was sent to local, state, federal agencies, Native American Tribes, and individuals of the public to solicit comments (See: Appendix E, Distribution List for the DEIS). Public Hearings were held January 20 and 21, 1992, in Drain and Roseburg, Oregon, respectively, to receive comments. The following summarizes the public hearings and responses to comments received at the public hearings. The hearing record is available from the Bureau of Reclamation. The comments and responses are presented below.

Public Hearings

January 20, 1992 Public Hearing, Drain, Oregon. A total of 30 people attended this meeting. After the Bureau of Reclamation explained that the purpose of the meeting was to accept oral or written comments on the adequacy of the DEIS, 6 persons submitted oral comments on the projects. Comments were generally supportive of the project. Speakers addressed the local benefits that would result from the project: improved municipal and domestic water supply and water quality, flood control, improved irrigation water management, municipal and industrial growth, enhancement of fisheries habitat, and new flat water recreation opportunities.

No comments addressed the adequacy of the DEIS. Significant comments requiring responses:

January 21, 1992, Public Hearing, Roseburg, Oregon. A total of 22 people attended this meeting. After the Bureau of Reclamation explained to the attendees that the purpose of the meeting was to accept comments on the adequacy of the DEIS, 5 persons submitted oral comments on the project. Most speakers indicated there is a need for the project to improve fisheries habitat, to improve water quality, to satisfy existing water rights, to control flooding, and to provide for controlled seasonal distribution of surface water. One speaker made comments concerning content of the DEIS.

Public Hearing comments requiring responses are as follows:

January 20, 1992 Public Hearing

- Mr. Whitford (Page 18 of Hearing Transcript)

"But I would very, very much like to see it go. Being against it a little... its going to cause a lot of traffic right in front of my home which I'd rather not have..."

Average daily traffic (ADT) counts in the vicinity of Mr. Whitford's residence show 219 vehicles per day, May 1990. During operation of the project during the recreation season ADT would rise to 290 on weekdays, and 434 on weekends.

January 21, 1992 Public Hearing

- Mr. Kramert (Page 6 of Hearing Transcript)

"While this project doesn't strike me as being oppressive, it has an element where conceivably there are a great many people in the County that are being victimized. If we are here tonight to salute a project that's been run up the flagpole and is a done deal, then you can cut me off right now."

While Douglas County has proceeded on its own accord to acquire lands and initiate road construction in the project area, Reclamation has made no decision on whether or not to fund the project. Before a decision can be made, the National Environmental Policy Act requires Reclamation to complete a final EIS, which must consider all the significant concerns which surfaced when the draft EIS was reviewed. A record of decision document will be prepared after the final EIS has been filed and made available to interested publics."

- Mr. Kramert (Page 7 of Hearing Transcript)

"... Then the project went ahead again this time with the provision that there would be, in conjunction with this dam

A detailed description of the project facilities and the pipeline distribution system is covered in pages 2-4 through 2-

and reservoir, pipelines to distributed the water."

"Now, this is something that hasn't been mentioned here or in the Environmental Impact Statement, but this seems to me in cost to be very formidable, and I haven't heard any numbers in connection with the pipeline to distribute this water.

• Mr. Kramert (Page 8 and 9 of Hearing Transcript)

"Because no pipelines live forever, who is going to conduct the maintenance?"

"I'm suggesting that we should look at not the environmental impact but the societal impact. You may have been brainwashed, and all the commissioners may have been brainwashed in ten years because we have built two prior dams. We have been assured that this is a really desirable thing. We have promised the people up in Yoncalla and Drain that this is coming..."

"... It seems to me that the euphoria attendant to some such project should be based on some rational conception of what are the benefits."

13 on the draft EIS. Project costs were listed on pages 2-20 through 2-22. Updated costs are included in this Final EIS.

Maintenance of the pipeline system will be the responsibility of Douglas County."

Social impacts (both favorable and adverse) of the proposed project were addressed on pages 3-91 through 3-95 of the DEIS. The two recently built dams in the County (Galesville and Berry Creek) have provided significant economic and social benefits in the Roseburg area. The proposed Milltown Hill project is intended to improve social and economic conditions in the Elk Creek subbasin, by providing storage and distribution of surface waters, which, at the present are uncontrolled. The project would provide the presently unfulfilled water needs for irrigation, municipalities and industries, fisheries habitat, rural domestic conditions, and flood control.

Planning for the proposed project was a coordinated effort by the public and interested federal, state and local groups. Issues, concerns, and benefits were identified. Coordinated agency

efforts were used to address and resolve issues and concerns and to provide maximum benefits. State-of-the-art methods were used to quantify public and private water needs, water availability, and the optimum conditions for water distribution to benefit social, economic, and biological needs.

"... There are ... 86,000 the last I knew in the County. How about a survey of the rest of them to see if they are equally enthused?"

As stated in the previous response, the residents of Douglas County have participated in the planning phase of the project. The public has also been involved in the development of the Douglas County Comprehensive Plan, which addressed water development projects throughout the County. Public comment on the DEIS considered the need for and benefits of project construction and operation.

• Mr. Yockim - (Pages 14, 15 of the Hearing Transcript)

"I'd like to make three points. I'd like to see examined in the EIS. One of them is the ability to use the stored water as a way to even out the seasonal distribution of the water... during those dry periods.

Douglas County officials have analyzed the seasonal water needs for municipalities, industries, rural domestic areas, irrigation for crop production, and fish and wildlife habitat enhancement. The various water needs and resulting seasonal distribution allocations were developed after analyzing existing surface water rights, minimum instream flows mandated by the state of Oregon, and estimates provided by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for anadromous fisheries needs during low flow periods. Seasonal distribution of the impounded water will be

determined after consultation with ODFW, the Corps of Engineers, and other interested agencies. Seasonal water distribution allocations will depend primarily on water storage conditions prior to each irrigation season.

"Water allocation rules that are being developed by the Water Resources Department of the State, we notice they've listed the Umpqua River system as an area of concern, and they want to give some special attention to it."

If the proposed project is approved for funding, Douglas County will be required to submit an application to the Water Resources Department (WRD) for water rights, pursuant to Oregon Revised Statutes 537. The application will be subject to a public hearing to be conducted by WRD. It is expected that the hearing will address the water rights and allocations in the Elk Creek subbasin.

"... Roseburg City Sewage Facility was able to use the Galesville water as a way to dilute out their effluent and therefore have a lower of treatment required... The same thing will happen with the communities in Drain and Yoncalla. They can use the water for helping in their effluent treatment programs.

Sanitary waste discharges are made into Elk Creek from the Drain Sanitary Treatment Plant. Sanitary waste discharges are made into Yoncalla Creek from the Yoncalla Sanitary Treatment Plant (DEIS, Page 3-29). No specific amount of water has been allocated from the project to treat or dilute effluents processed in the treatment plants in these cities. Additional summer and fall stream flows would help in the treatment or dilution of the effluents mentioned above.

LETTERS

This section includes letters received as a result of the review of the December 1991 DEIS. Reclamation's responses to specific comments are included where appropriate.

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2572 Fisher Road
Roseburg, Oregon 97470

Bureau of Reclamation
Regional Office (Attention: 150)
Box 043-550 West Fort Street
Boise, Idaho 83724

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is George Winterbotham, and I have lived in Douglas County since 1939 with forty years in the Elkton area.

In the 1940's Elk Creek was a productive fishing stream with an adequate summer flow and a large sea-run cutthroat trout population. Currently, the sea-run cutthroat trout population in the Umpqua River system is the most distressed population and considered by many to be a candidate for a sensitive designation. Elk Creek has ceased to be any kind of contributor to the sea-run cutthroat population as far as can be determined. If fish are stressed in the small tributaries and move into Elk Creek, they are greeted by little or no water or water too warm to support their existence.

In the early 1940's electricity came to the area. In the 1950's irrigation systems, wells for houses, mills with mill ponds, and a growing number of new houses and businesses increased the demand for instream and inground water.

This removal of water from the Elk Creek watershed and stream resulted in the drying up of Elk Creek at various points and high temperatures for the rest of the creek in a number of years.

In the winter time water flows are quite high and periodically flood downstream towns and communities. The Milltown Hill Dam is the answer to the problem. Without it, one does not have a viable stream. The project will permit the re-establishment of the fish runs, provide water for the communities, give a measure of flood control, and enhance the livability of North Douglas County.

Thank you.

George Winterbotham

Thank you for your review and comment.

P. O. Box 369
Yoncalla, Oregon 97499
January 21, 1992

Bureau of Reclamation - Regional Office
Box 104 - 550 West Fort Street
Boise, Idaho 83724

Gentlemen:

I am presently serving on the Water Resource
Advisory Council for this area and Douglas County, Oregon.

I attended the Drain, Oregon meeting on
January 20, 1992; and wish to confirm the unanimous sup-
port that was expressed in that meeting. As a Board member
for this area, I have yet to hear any negative comments
from the citizens of northern Douglas County.

As a property owner in the Yoncalla area, I
would like you to be aware of the fact that Yoncalla Creek
floods one of my fields several times each year. So,
consequently, the water ruins the fence every year.
Several of my neighbors have the same problems with the
creek as I do.

Milltown Hill project will not only be a great
benefit for this community, it will also alleviate the
high water in Elk Creek, thus allowing Yoncalla Creek to
run-off.

Sincerely,



Dale Bessett

Thank you for your review and comment.

Regional Environmental Officer
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Box 043 550 West Fort Street
Boise, Idaho 83724

February 8, 1992

Attention: Bob Hamilton

1. I request that the US Bureau of Reclamation extend the time for official comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Milltown Hill Project by at least 6 months. Official testimony is accepted only until February 11, yet the Loan Application Report (LAR) will not be ready for public review until after that date. The LAR should contain financial information that will help the public make informed comments. Without a review of the LAR, even the county officials will not know the full impact on "Socio-Economic Conditions" as described in the DEIS.

2. From the preliminary information that I have obtained, there are serious doubts that the county can afford this project at this time.

Preliminary information is that the county will have to borrow \$23,000,000 at payments of over \$1,000,000 per year over the next 40 years. The county will also have to invest an additional \$11,000,000 up front out of current cash reserves. If you count the interest lost at 7% average, this portion of the financing is \$770,000 per year. Cost per year of the project is therefore going to be around \$1,770,000.

The only revenue to the county that is expected on this project is from water sales. The preliminary estimate is for water sales of \$775,000 per year - maximum. The project is not planned to sell power, but even if it did, the maximum annual power receipts would only be \$300,000. In total, the maximum annual revenue generated would be \$575,000.

If the county proceeds with this project, therefore, we can expect the net county annual cash flow to be reduced by at least \$425,000 (\$1,000,000 less \$575,000), and more realistically by \$1,495,000 (\$1,770,000 less \$275,000). The cash loss on the Milltown Hill project could have a devastating impact on current Douglas County operations.

1. Reclamation did not receive a broad indication of a need for longer review; therefore, an extension was not provided. The loan application report will not include any actions not presented in the EIS.
2. The DEIS provided cost estimates for the project. The FEIS has updated these costs to coincide with those which will be presented in the LAR.
3. This project could be funded under the Reclamation's Small Reclamation Projects Act. Funds are granted based on the ability of the County to repay the loan. This project would likely compete with other projects that the County is considering and will be funded based on priorities and the potential benefit to all residents of the County and considered by the Board of County Commissioners. The County would make the final determination to accept the loan based on these priorities.

This cash loss would be coming at a time when county receipts are no longer expected to match county operating costs. The county is currently asking for budget cuts, and building the dam would certainly mean that more cuts would have to be made. The county is no longer in a position to say that this dam can be paid for by receipts from the Galesville dam and it will all be made right by O & C revenues. Even if we applied the county theory of finance that Galesville revenue should be used to pay for Milltown we would fall short. Average cash per year generated by Galesville has only been \$375,000.

If the DEIS comments are to be complete, they should include an explanation of where the money will come from to pay off the \$23,000,000 loan. Where will the money come from to replace the interest on \$11,000,000 of county reserves? What current programs will be cut to pay the newly acquired debt? What will the "Socio-Economic" impact be of these cuts?

It is the government's place to make investments that the private sector will not; such as in schools, libraries, health care, police, bridges, roads and sometimes even dams. The government isn't expected to come up with a bottom-line, just live within its means, and give full disclosure to the public of where the money comes from and how it is to be spent.

Will we have full disclosure on this project before the final testimony is received?

Respectfully,

Randy Crockett

Randy Crockett
P.O. Box 1067
Winchester, Oregon 97495



CITY OF YONCALLA

P.O. Box 508 Yoncalla, OR 97499-0508

January 30, 1992

Bureau of Reclamation
Regional Office
Attn: 150
Box 243-550 West Fort Street
Boise, Idaho 83724

Gentlemen:

This letter is in support of the Milltown Hill Dam project in North Douglas County Oregon. I speak not only for the City of Yoncalla but for all the area encompassing the project-Yoncalla, Scotts Valley, Elkhead, Rice Hill and the Drain area.

The dam will give us a stable reliable water supply which is needed if we hope to grow; improve fire protection; provide irrigation water for the ranches; provide recreational activities not only for our local people but for others, thus adding to our economy; and provide stream flow stabilization which is badly needed. Additionally, it will provide fish and wildlife enhancement.

The Community is 100 percent in favor of the project and feels it is long overdue. We urge continuance of the project.

Very respectfully,

Albert D. Applegate Jr.
Albert D. Applegate Jr.
Mayor

Thank you for your review and comment.



**C.C.D. BUSINESS
DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**
744 Southeast Ross Street • Beaverton, OR 97005
Telephone 503 / 672-4728 • FAX 503 / 672-7011
Toll Free in Oregon 1-800-453-4010

February 11, 1992

Bureau of Reclamation
Regional Office
Debra Schwarz
ATTN: 150
Boise ID 83724

Dear Ms. Schwarz:

CCD Business Development Corporation is the federal Economic Development Administration-designated district organization for the Coos-Curry-Douglas Economic Development District.

We write in support of the Milltown Hill Dam Project proposed for Elk Creek in northern Douglas County, Oregon.

It is our opinion that the environmental benefits the dam would provide the region are more significant than the environmental disadvantages addressed in the project's EIS. For farmers, businesses and homeowners benefiting from the more consistent water supply, a reservoir for recreation, and the reduced threat of flooding, and for the anadromous fish populations in Elk Creek benefiting from stored water released during low flow periods and added gravel to improve spawning conditions, the benefits are obvious.

Equally as obvious are the economic benefits of the project in our region, which is currently suffering from an acute dependence on the troubled timber industry and double-digit unemployment. The jobs the dam construction will provide and the increased tourism traffic the completed project will generate will help diversify our economy away from our dependence on timber and also assist in controlling Douglas County's unemployment rate, currently 10.3%.

Of possibly even greater long-term importance, this project will add a critical water supply for fire protection for industry, the lack of which currently prevents full utilization of potential industrial sites in the Drain and Yoncalla areas.

It is for these reasons that we fully support the Milltown Hill Dam Project.

Sincerely,

Peter Graff
Executive Director

Thank you for your review and comment.

BAPBARA ROBERTS
GOVERNOR



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE CAPITOL
SALEM, OREGON 97310-0370
TELEPHONE 503 378 1111

February 7, 1992

Mr. Monte L. McClendon
Regional Environmental Officer
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Box 045 550 W. Fort St.
Boise, ID 83724

Dear Mr. McClendon:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Milltown Hill Project in Douglas County. We are pleased to lend our support to this promising effort.

The Bureau of Reclamation is to be commended for the substantial planning, coordination, and data gathering effort reflected in the draft document. We believe you have addressed most of the important aspects and potential impacts of the proposed reservoir project.

With the objective of maximizing the usefulness and completeness of the final EIS, however, we urge the Bureau to address the issues raised by the four commenting agencies: Department of Agriculture, Forestry Department, Water Resources Department, and Department of Fish and Wildlife. More information or a clearer presentation is requested on a number of issues, including: wildlife impacts and mitigation, protection of existing instream water right flows, management and protection of stored water allocated to fish enhancement, water supply needs, cost/benefit ratio, and impact on and mitigation of forest and farm resources. In particular, we recommend that the FEIS specify that several more specific management plans be developed for water management and for fish and wildlife mitigation and protection. The attached comments from the agencies explain these concerns in more detail.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this draft and hope that our comments will be helpful in preparing the

4. The draft EIS suggests that the traditional surface archeological survey was not effective in locating cultural resources in the project area because of visibility problems. It states (page 3-70) "heavy vegetation obscured the ground surface during the survey and may have prevented detection of some archeological sites" and "prehistoric archeological material was discovered in three locations where the vegetation had been removed (recorded as sites 35D0449, D0450, and D0451)...." We are concerned that these three prehistoric sites were found only where the land in the area of the proposed reservoir was exposed and that they represent the total number found by the surveys to date. Under the circumstances, it is doubtful that the Section 106 investigations could be considered complete until followup subsurface probing or testing and/or resurvey is done in all project areas where cultural resources may be present but obscured by vegetation, duff, soil, or shallow surface deposits. The final EIS should describe the results of the followup investigations or include a plan to carry them out, either prior to construction or after the reservoir is filled and drawn down.

5. See response #2 above.

The final EIS should summarize the key elements of a mitigation program developed in consultation with the SHPO and reflected in a signed Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement. The program should include a research design; a plan for further survey and testing needed in the project area; a plan for data recovery on sites that address needs defined by the research design; a plan for recording historic buildings or other structures prior to their demolition; a plan for long-term management of all cultural resources, including those determined to be significant to Native Americans or other ethnic groups; a plan for monitoring and treating cultural resources discovered during construction or reservoir operation; a plan for treating human remains and grave goods that may be exposed on federal or other land during the investigations or the reservoir operations; and a plan for curation. The final EIS should also specify how the agency's Section 106 and other statutory obligations will be fulfilled on Bureau of Land Management lands that would be affected by the project.

Richard L. Winters
Richard L. Winters

4. See response #2 above.

Thank you for your review and comments.

February 6, 1992

**WATER
RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT**

Memorandum

To: Ron Hofman, Governor's Forest Planning Team
From: Rick Bastasch, Resource Management Division
Subj: WRD comments on the Milltown Hill Project DEIS, Douglas County, Bureau of Reclamation

The Water Resources Department appreciates the opportunity to comment on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the proposed Milltown Hill Project in Douglas County. We support efforts by Douglas County to provide for current and future beneficial uses of water in the Elk Creek drainage. Findings in the Department's Umpqua River Basin Program recognize that the streamflow available in the Elk Creek drainage does not currently satisfy existing water rights during the low-flow months. It notes that storage of winter flows will be necessary on most streams to provide future consumptive uses and an adequate minimum flow for the preservation of the anadromous fishery. In addition, the Department's state policy on Instream Flow Protection directs the Department to support environmentally sound multi-purpose storage projects. The Milltown Hill Project appears promising in this regard, and we welcome the opportunity to offer our input into the evaluation of its potential environmental impacts.

The Bureau of Reclamation is to be commended for its description of the proposed project and the anticipated environmental consequences in the DEIS. It is evident that a great deal of data gathering, analysis, and coordination has taken place. The final EIS will provide the basis from which decisionmakers and the general public will derive their understanding and evaluation of the project's probable merits and effects. With the goal of enhancing the final document, we have identified a few issues which could be addressed or explained more fully. These suggestions are presented in detail in the attachment.

We hope that our comments are helpful to the Bureau in preparing the final EIS. Please contact me if you have any questions about the Department's comments or concerns.

cc: Gary Ball, Watermaster, District 15
Randy Moore, S.W. Region Manager
Steve Applegate, Water Rights Section

Thank you for your review and comment.



3850 Portland Rd NE
Salem, OR 97310
(503) 378-3779
FAX (503) 378-6130

**Water Resources Department Comments
on the Draft EIS for the Milltown Hill Project
(February 6, 1992)**

The Water Resources Department (Department) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Milltown Hill Project in Douglas County. The Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) is to be commended for its presentation of the purpose, function, and potential impacts of the proposed project in this document. We believe that the discussion of a few issues, as detailed below, could be enhanced in the final EIS.

Need for the proposed project

The DEIS offers projections of anticipated future needs for water among various sectors and discusses to what extent these needs would be met by the proposed project. This information is very important because it provides the basis by which decisionmakers and the public can judge whether the potential environmental impacts are warranted. The need for the water and the likelihood that it will be developed as proposed will be of interest to the Water Resources Commission when it considers Douglas County's application to store water. Although the DEIS does project future needs, we recommend that the final EIS clarify the issues highlighted below:

1. **Municipal and rural domestic demands:** The projections of future municipal demand presented in the DEIS seem to vary in the document. For example, page 1-7 it states that 1,405 acre-feet (af) will be needed annually to meet the needs of the cities of Drain, Yoncalla, and Rice Hill through the year 2030. On page 3-85, this same amount is needed for Drain and Yoncalla alone, yet the table on that page, Table 3-21-4, suggests that the additional need for Drain and Yoncalla amounts to 2,003 af.
2. The text on page 3-84 explains that the projections assume a constant per capita rate of use, based on the average per capita rate for the period 1980-1986. For the city of Drain, this rate is 361 gallons per day (gpd). Based on the population data presented in Table 3-21-3 and the diversion demand in Table 3-21-4, however, the rate would increase to 507 gpd in 2030. Likewise, the average per capita rate for Yoncalla is presented as 214 gpd in the text. The population and diversion projections, however, show the rate rising to 266 gpd in 2030. Perhaps this information should be double-checked for accuracy.
3. The expected additional need for rural domestic water by 2030 is 342 af per year. This demand was calculated after considering that the cost of purchasing stored water would slightly reduce water use (p. 3-86). The FEIS should perhaps also point out that the costs of building the infrastructure to deliver and treat the water may be another disincentive to taking advantage of a more reliable supply.

1. The 1405 acre-feet annual need for Yoncalla, Rice Hill and Drain, listed on page 1-7 is correct. The narrative on page 3-85 has been changed to list Rice Hill as well as Yoncalla and Drain, for municipal-industrial need. Table 3-21-4 has been deleted due to inaccuracies in the data.
2. The per capita rate for Drain would remain constant at 361 gpd. The per capita rate for Yoncalla would remain constant at 214 gpd. The increase in demand from 1980 to 2030 reflects the projected increase in municipal (population) demand plus increased industrial demand.
3. A slight reduction (estimated 10%) in the projected rural domestic demand may occur due to rural users choosing to rely on existing wells rather than take advantage of piped water, however this area has a history of marginal rural water supplies, so piped water should be more reliable.

4. **Industrial demands:** The document anticipates that future industrial water use will be limited to sand and gravel operations, which are expected to require an additional 150 af per year (pp. 1-7, 3-87). The discussion of the need for additional industrial water supplies (pp. 1-8, 3-79, 3-82, 3-92), however, implies that a wider variety of industries might be attracted to the area if there were a better water supply. For example, the construction of Galesville Dam is given credit for attracting three new manufacturing facilities (p. 3-79). The presentation of potential industrial demand should clarify which industries are likely to develop and what their needs may be.

5. **Irrigation demand:** The DEIS explains that 897 acres of irrigated land need a supplemental supply because of the later dates of their appurtenant water rights. Is this estimate based on the water right records alone, or was there some field verification of the actual acreage? The project would provide a supplemental irrigation supply for these 897 acres plus a primary supply for 3,764 acres. The Bureau estimates that there are 7,737 arable acres in the subbasin. However, the DEIS does not present information on the probability, given landowner interest and economic considerations such as the need for drainage and other on-farm improvements, that the 9,654 acre-feet dedicated to irrigation would actually be developed. We recommend that the FEIS include such information.

6. **Additional information needs:** The DEIS should address not only projected needs based on population estimates and arable land, but the likelihood that these demands will actually materialize. It appears that a benefit/cost analysis has been conducted, and that some results from that analysis are included in the DEIS. We recommend that a presentation of the results of the benefit/cost analysis be included or appended. This analysis should include a range of scenarios, including the possibility that the demand for the water may turn out to be lower than projected. Another helpful element to include in the FEIS would be a discussion of how or if the project fits into an overall water supply plan.

Alternatives

7. The DEIS briefly discusses several alternatives which were considered but excluded from detailed study. This discussion, like the presentation of projected needs, would be enhanced by the inclusion of the results of a benefit/cost analysis for the various alternatives.

8. The last two paragraphs of this section (p. 2-28) describe alternatives that do not include a dam. These two paragraphs could be expanded to better document why these alternatives were not considered in more detail. For example, under non-structural alternatives, municipal conservation is mentioned as an alternative supply, but not agricultural conservation. Are estimates available of the quantity of water which could be provided through agricultural conservation? This paragraph

4. It is not possible to predict precisely what industries would be attracted to the area when a reliable, increased water supply is made available. County zoning ordinances and water availability would probably dictate the type and size of industries which would be attracted to the area. The allocation for municipal-industrial use is 1,405 acre-feet, which would not attract large industries.

5. The 897 acres of irrigated lands needing supplemental supply of water was determined by a survey and public meetings. It is not likely that the entire 7,377 arable acres would be fully developed. Field size and shape, pumping costs, topography, costly subsurface drainage development, and land owner interest are factors which limit irrigation development.

The County anticipates municipal and industrial subscription of roughly 5% during the first year of the project and full development within the first 20 years.

6. See response to comments #2 and #3 of R. Crockett letter on page 3. Also, CEQ regulations do not advocate the presentation of a benefit to cost ratio in a NEPA document.

The Douglas County Water Management Plan prepared in 1979 and updated in 1989 identified water needs in the County subbasins. The plan also identified the need for storage sites, including the proposed Milltown Hill project.

7. There were several alternatives considered in the evaluations for this project. Project cost was only one criterion that was used to pursue feasible alternatives. See responses #2 and #3 to R. Crockett letter on page 3.

8. Municipal conservation is already practiced due to the limited water supply. Additional quantities that could be conserved through irrigation conservation have not been estimated but would be a minor contribution, since Elk Creek has little flow during most of irrigation season.

also notes that the purchase of irrigation rights would be contrary to the goal of diversifying the economic base of the area. It would be helpful to present an analysis to support this statement. How many irrigation rights would be available? How many would be necessary to supply the anticipated needs? Could the economic base be enhanced and diversified if some irrigation rights were transferred to higher value agriculture and others retired for municipal needs? This information is analogous to the information on alternative reservoir sites provided in the previous section. Providing such information on the non-reservoir alternatives would make the discussion of alternatives more complete.

Surface water quantity

4. We suggest that a clearer presentation of water availability and instream water right flows be included. The DEIS presents a table (Table 3-8-1) which displays monthly flow information from the gage near Drain. Figure 3-8-1 compares the average flow with the combined demand of the protected instream flow and pre-1974 water rights. An additional table showing year-round instream water right flows for all reaches of Elk Creek and flow data, such as monthly 50% and 80% exceedence flows, would illustrate when water is available for storage as well as the relative availability during that period. An example table is attached.

10. The DEIS should discuss in more detail how the stored water will be managed. We recommend that the FEIS explain that the Bureau and the county will coordinate with the appropriate state agencies, including this Department and the Department of Fish and Wildlife, to develop a management plan. In particular, the plan should articulate how the public benefits to be provided by the project will be secured. It would clarify the process for determining what natural flow levels must be allowed to pass through the reservoir to assure that existing instream water right flows are met, and for determining when stored water allocated for fish flows will be released during the summer and how it will be protected. Methods for resolving conflicts between competing users should also be included in the plan.

11. The analysis of the impact of the project on streamflows displays several scenarios, depending on precipitation conditions. It explains that the amount of stored water available for fishery needs will also vary depending on water conditions. The FEIS should explain how the storage allocations will be managed relative to one another. For example, will the allocations for irrigation, municipal and industrial, and fish be cut back proportionately during a dry year? We recommend this as an equitable approach. How these cutbacks are accomplished and distributed should also be a part of the management plan suggested above.

There has been an analysis of irrigation rights, but flows approach zero during summer months. Under the proposed project, Douglas County would supply significant amounts of water in a timely fashion, especially in the upper watershed of a very dry subbasin.

9. The example table with the requested flow information is included in the final EIS.

10. A management plan will be developed by Douglas County in consultation with ODFW for release of waters stored for fisheries use. Douglas County anticipates the preparation of a memorandum of understanding between ODFW and Douglas County for storage and release of these flows.

It will be Douglas County's responsibility to operate the project to assure that instream water rights are not violated. This is an environmental commitment (See: Appendix B).

11. All prior water rights will be met first. When natural flows to the reservoir fall below the prior rights, then inflow to the reservoir equals outflow from the reservoir. The criteria used for municipal (and industrial) water supply from reservoir releases is that it never takes a shortage. Although 7,377 acres of arable lands were identified by BR, sufficient water was not available to provide water to all arable land and municipal, and industrial, and fish enhancement. The County decreased the 7,377 acres to 4,661 acres using various criteria. The criteria used for irrigation water supply is that it is not more than 50% short in any given year, or not more than 100% short any ten consecutive year period. Municipal, industrial, and fish water will have similar priority of fill while irrigation will have the least. To meet "target flow", 5,180 acre-feet are needed to supplement releases. The 7,737 acre-feet includes the carryover for dry years to meet target flows. The County will prepare a water distribution plan for the WRD hearings regarding permits, for water rights. The plan will be reviewed by ODFW.

Water rights

12. Several of the activities associated with the proposed project would require water rights. Table 2-3, which lists the reviews, permits, and licenses required by federal, state, and local agencies, notes that water rights are required and that an application must be submitted. We suggest that this listing be expanded to read, "Water rights for storing of water, use of stored water, wetland mitigation, recreation facilities, fire protection, and rock washing. Instream water right or secondary permit for stored fish releases."

13. So far, only an application for the reservoir storage has been filed. As the water is developed, secondary permits will be required for the use of the stored water. During the construction stage, a water-use permit or a limited license may be required for the ponds to be used for rock washing at the contractor work area. The excavation of shallow areas for wetland creation in the upper end of the reservoir may also require a permit. Depending on whether a valid water right exists for the log storage pond to be acquired for wetland enhancement, a transfer or a new water right may be necessary for that use. Water rights are also required for the water supply for the recreation and fire protection facilities to be developed.

14. It is stated on pages S-5 and 3-59 that stored releases for fish enhancement would be protected by an instream water right which ODFW would receive from the Department. We suggest that this be re-worded as follows: "The Department of Fish and Wildlife may apply to the Water Resources Department for an instream water right to protect stored releases for fish enhancement." The Department must follow a process for approving instream water rights, and the FEIS should not imply that the instream water right has already been approved. In the final document, the Bureau may also wish to explore the alternative of protecting fish releases through a secondary permit from this Department to release the stored water for fish purposes.

Miscellaneous items

We have noted several miscellaneous items that would benefit from clarification or elaboration.

15. Page 1-10: The second paragraph should note that land use changes can also reduce flood damage.

16. Section 2.2.2.16 on project costs does not include the long-term cost of repairing, replacing, or removing an aging dam structure.

17. Page 3-32: The DEIS notes that the dead storage in the reservoir would be able to accommodate sedimentation for 100 years. What is the expected rate of

12. The table has been updated in the final EIS.

13. Douglas County will apply for all permits that are required by state law.

14. Reclamation understands that the ODFW must apply for an instream water right. These statements have been revised as suggested in the FEIS. ODFW's application would reflect the management plan on page 3 of their letter.

Douglas County will pursue a secondary permit and will coordinate operation of the project with ODFW.

15. The paragraph has been revised in the final EIS.

16. The operation and maintenance costs are included to keep the project in operable condition. Total structure replacements are not included.

17. Reclamation evaluated sedimentation for the proposed project based on USGS data for Elk Creek near Drain, Oregon gage. A total of 289 sample pairs of instantaneous stream discharge and suspended sediment concentrations were used in the study. Based on the

sedimentation? We suggest that the Bureau and county coordinate with land managers upstream from the reservoir to develop memoranda of understanding which would help to minimize sedimentation and other potential water quality impacts. The FEIS should refer to this coordination effort.

18. Page 3-35: The Elkhead mercury mine is discussed in this section on water quality impacts. It is unclear in this section and in the mineral and aggregate section (p. 3-13) whether the underground workings of the mine are currently saturated or will be saturated once the reservoir has filled. Will the flow of water from the mine adit increase if water levels rise due to the impoundment? Will this increase the potential for contamination? We suggest that these concerns be addressed in the final document.

19. Page 3-39: The discussion of impacts of the operation of the project on groundwater states that properly timed sprinkler irrigation methods minimize leaching and that it is consequently unlikely that significant groundwater contamination will result. The final EIS should go on to explain that agricultural chemicals can leach to the groundwater and eventually discharge to surface water if care is not exercised in restricting irrigation to that which can be consumed by the crops. The Bureau should indicate what measures it intends to employ to ensure that irrigators use the appropriate irrigation techniques to minimize leaching.

study, the annual sediment inflow was 9.9 acre-feet. Between 460 and 480 acre-feet or 920 and 960 acre-feet of sediment would accumulate in 50 and 100 years, respectively.

Douglas County will periodically review upstream land management practices to evaluate potential water quality impacts.

18. There are several mine adits. There is no continuous flow of water from any mine adit. The adits are at least 100 feet in elevation (>900 masl) above the reservoir's highest elevation (775 masl). There would be no anticipated increase in ground water that would cause flows from or to the mine adit.

19. Water is a very valuable resource in most of Douglas County, and especially so in a subbasin such as Elk Creek that lacks sufficient water in irrigation season. This lack of water, the price of water, and the metering devices that determine usage will be a great incentive to exercise proper irrigation practices. Metering devices will be installed and proportioned to provide an evaluation of the quantity of water applied compared to the duty of water. This measure will be employed by Douglas County and appropriate water user organizations.

Oregon

January 29, 1992

Regional Environmental Officer
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Box 043 550 West Fort Street
Boise, Idaho 83724

DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

Dear Sir:

The Oregon Department of Agriculture is pleased to submit the following comments for the draft environmental impact statement on the Milltown Hill Project.

General Comment

As a general comment, we believe the project will provide a wide range of benefits to the public with a minimum of adverse impacts.

Specific Comment

In our review of the draft report, we believe the following items need to be addressed:

1. Fish Habitat There is a lack of discussion on fish habitat in the streams above the project pool area. It is important to discuss the present habitat condition and the impacts. Indirectly, the draft talks about project fish enhancement measures resulting in a gain of 225 fall Chinook, 1450 winter Steelhead and 1450 Coho and at the same time a loss of 50 winter Steelhead and 50 Coho. Is this tradeoff acceptable. It is not fully addressed in the draft.
2. Cost/Benefit Ratio The draft lacks a detailed analysis of a costs benefits ratio for the project. Listed are details of project costs and annual benefits but we see no mention of a ratio analysis being completed.
3. Farmland Impacts Within the draft are statements that the loss of farmland is more than offset by the benefits of additional irrigation water supplied to the remaining agricultural land. We do not however, see a discussion or analysis that quantifies the increased production or increased value of the agricultural products to be produced.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment; we trust our suggestions will be useful as the final draft is prepared.

Sincerely,

Chuck Craig
Chuck Craig, Assistant Administrator
Natural Resources Division
(503) 378-3810

BARBARA ROBERTS
Governor



635 Capitol Street, N.E.
Salem, OR 97310-0110

Thank you for your review and comment.

1. Although the fish enhancement numbers have been revised in the final EIS, the increase in fisheries benefits far exceeds the losses. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and National Marine Fisheries Service have concurred that the project will have net positive benefits for fisheries resources.
2. See responses #2 and #3 to R. Crockett letter on page 3.
3. This statement was based on the loss of farmland in the reservoir pool area due to inundation (about 260 acres) compared to the increased irrigation on lands not now receiving sufficient water (897 acres) as well as on lands not receiving any water (3,774 acres). Quantification of acres of agricultural lands to benefit from the project is included on page 3-45 of the Draft EIS. Quantification of dollar benefits is included on page 3-91.

Oregon

DIVISION OF
STATE LANDS

STATE LAND BOARD
BARBARA ROBERTS
Governor
PHIL KEISLING
Secretary of State
ANTHONY MEERER
State Treasurer

January 13, 1992

Regional Environmental Officer
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Box 0113 550 West Front Street
Boise, ID 83724

Re: Milltown Hill Project, Douglas Co. Oregon draft
E.I.S. (Elk Creek)

Dear Sir:

The Division of State Lands has reviewed the above referenced project to provide a reliable water supply in the Elk Creek subbasin. The following comments relate our position on the proposed project.

1. The project will require a removal permit from our agency if 50 cubic yards or more of material in removed or altered within the waterway, including wetlands. However, pursuant to ORS 196.800 - 196.990, a permit is not required for filling within the water way for the purpose of constructing, operating, and maintaining dams or other diversions for which water right or hydroelectric permit shall be issued under ORS Chapter 537 or 539, or under ORS 543.010 - 543.620, administered by the Water Resources Department. Fill for activities associated with dam or water diversions for purposes other than operating or maintaining the dam or water diversion (fishways, erosion protection, etc.) require permits under the Removal-Fill Law. Finally, the Geology and Soil section should mention the loss of alluvial deposit mitigation below the dam site.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft E.I.S. Please contact our office if you have questions or need further assistance.

Sincerely,

William L. Parks

William L. Parks
Staff Biologist

WLP/lis
bil:202



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Salem, OR 97310-1117
(503) 576-3005
FAX (503) 576-3011

1. Douglas County has made joint application for a Removal/Fill permit from the DSL and a Section 404 permit from the Corps of Engineers.

2. Gravels are not commonly found in Elk Creek. Most of the stream bottom materials are bedrock. The presence of the dam is expected to cause minimal loss of gravel recruitment to downstream areas and no loss of deposits for mining. Mitigation and enhancement efforts for fisheries resources will include placement of gravel-sized material in various areas.

Thank you for your review and comment.

Oregon

February 3, 1992

DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION

Highway Division
District 6

FILE CODE

Regional Environmental Officer
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Box 043 550 West Fort Street
Boise, ID 83724

Re: Milltown Hill Project
DES 91-33

Dear Sir:

The Oregon State Highway Division, District 6 Office, has 2 concerns regarding the Milltown Hill Project.

1) The Draft E.I.S. does not mention the increase in traffic due to recreational use and future development. The Highway Division is concerned about functional impacts due to increased traffic at the I-5 freeway interchange at Elkhead Road. The E.I.S. should address these impacts.

2) Figure 3-3-3, Drainage Facilities, indicates a pipeline paralleling the I-5 freeway. If this pipeline is to be installed on highway right-of-way, a permit will be required. Before issuing a permit for longitudinal installations along interstate highways, a "Permit Variance Request" must be completed and approved. I've attached a copy of the information needed in the request. Before a Variance Request can be approved, all possible alternate routes that do not use freeway right-of-way must be evaluated.

Sincerely,

Ray Cranston

Ray Cranston
District Operations Manager

RC:lh

cc: Terry Cole
Bruce Harrell



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(503) 444-3405
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17

1. The DEIS discusses (Section 3.1.22.2, Operation Impacts) increased traffic from development of the project. Traffic volume on Elkhead Road on the east side of the I-5 freeway interchange is about 880 vehicles per day. On the west side it is about 610 vehicles per day. Traffic at the freeway interchange is expected to increase an estimated 71 vehicles per day on weekdays and 215 vehicles per day on weekends. This increase is not expected to have a significant impact on the function of the interchange. The FEIS has been updated to include this information.

2. Douglas County will evaluate alternate routes and apply for a permit for those facilities in the highway right-of-way.

Thank you for your review and comment.

January 28, 1992

Regional Environmental Officer
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Box 043 550 West Fort Street
Boise, Idaho 83724

Dear Sir:

We have received and reviewed the Milltown Hill Project, Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). After reviewing the DEIS, we have found several areas of concern. Our comments are referenced to the DEIS page numbers.

1. Page 2-6, 2.2.2.4 Outlet Works
Oregon Law (ORS 540-350) requires all water storage projects to have provisions for future hydroelectric development. Hydroelectric projects are subject to Division 51 Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR).

2. Page 3-46, 3.1.13.2.1 Construction
The forest acreage data is somewhat confusing. It states that 160 acres would be inundated plus an additional 20 acres would be cut for road relocation. Then it states that not all the timber within the reservoir would be cut (90 acres left as wildlife mitigation near dam & Walker Cr.) and an additional 60 acres (South end of the reservoir) would be preserved to provide wildlife habitat. This sounds as if the 90 and 60 acres are left standing in a flooded reservoir. In addition, charts on the same page indicate a total of 364 acres of forest land is affected. This needs some clarification.

3. The last sentence of this same paragraph appears to compute the value of the forest land lost on the basis of just one resource lost (timber) and that for only 80 years. This is not an acceptable economic analysis. The proper way to compute the value of forest land and resources removed from production is to compute the future values of all forest resources lost on that forest land in perpetuity in terms of discounted present value.

4. Page 3-47, 3.1.13.2.2 Operation
This section states that the operation of the reservoir would not cause any additional loss in forest resources. That is true. However, the construction of the reservoir will affect the management (recreation) of surrounding lands, some of which are forested. This will cause a

1 of 2

Oregon

DEPARTMENT
OF FORESTRY

State Foresters Office



"STEWARDSHIP IN
FORESTRY"

1. Provisions for future hydroelectric development, as required by state law, were described in the draft EIS on page 2-6, 2.2.2.4, Outlet Works, however this is not a hydroelectric project.

2. There are approximately 364 acres of commercial forest lands within the 1192-acre project take-line. Of these 364 acres, 204 acres lie above the 775-foot mean sea level (the normal full pool elevation). Only 20 acres of forest land above this elevation will be cleared for realignment of existing roads and construction of new roads. The remaining 184 acres would remain uncut. Of the 160 acres of forest land within the normal full pool elevation, only 40 acres would be cleared and the timber removed. The remaining 120 acres of standing trees would remain uncut, to provide enhanced habitat for reservoir fish, water fowl and raptors. The FEIS has been updated.

3. The DEIS and FEIS analyzes the direct and indirect impacts of the project on all resources in the area that would be affected. For those resources where direct impacts have been identified, a value has been assigned whenever possible. The intent of the timber analysis was to estimate the loss of timber revenue from the sale of timber over an 80-year rotation period. The Oregon Department of Forestry also provided information on loss of jobs (See response #5 below).

4. The DEIS indicated (on page 3-47) that operation of the reservoir could cause some changes in BLM's management of forested lands adjacent to and near the reservoir. BLM is a cooperating agency for this EIS. No quantitative analysis is available.



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reduction in the harvest of wood from these lands, an additional forest resource loss.

Page 3-47, 3.1.13.3 Mitigation of Impacts to Timber Resources
There is only one sentence under this heading. It states that no mitigation will be done.

Other natural resources are being mitigated, why is forestry being excluded from mitigation? There is an acknowledged loss of forest land and forest wood growth, yet no mitigation is planned. This is contrary to the purpose and intent of OAR 690-51-000, 690-51-060, 690-51-180 and 690-51-250. Mitigation for forest land and growth lost because of this proposed development needs to be planned via consultation with this Department. Please contact me at your earliest convenience.

Page 3-98, 3.1.24.2 Impacts to Fire Protection
This inadequately mentions that the risk of forest fires will increase. In 1990, recreationists were the largest single class of the public responsible for starting forest fires in Oregon. It does not go into detail as to estimated numbers of forest fires, damages or suppression costs. In addition to the increased number of forest fires, there is also increased vandalism including cutting of nearby trees to start fires. More data needs to be provided on this subject.

Page 3-98, 3.1.24.3 Mitigation of Fire Protection Impacts
The proposed mitigation for the increased number of recreation caused forest fires is that the reservoir and fire hydrants will be able to supply water for suppression of these additional forest fires. Mitigation should consist of some additional annual funds for prevention and suppression programs in the general dam/reservoir area. Annual funding needs to be provided for prevention and control of forest fires caused by the dam/reservoir construction.

Thank you for the opportunity to review and comment on this proposed project.

Sincerely,



David M. Stere, Director
Forest Resources Planning

DHS/BB

5. It is Reclamation's and Douglas County understanding that Chapter 690 applies to hydroelectric projects, only. This is not a hydroelectric project. The relatively small loss of forest land (364 acres) and wood growth is considered a trade-off for other benefits of the project. Based on information from the Department of Forestry, the loss of 364 acres could result in the loss of 2 direct, indirect, and induced jobs at the timbershed level and 3.8 total jobs statewide. The loss is predicted to have only a minor impact on revenues in the local area which would be offset by increased revenues anticipated in other construction- or operation-related activities.

6. Although the risk of forest fires would increase, Douglas County has not experienced increases in fires caused by recreationists at Canyonville, Berry Creek and Galesville reservoirs. It is the County's view that fires at Milltown Hill would not be any more frequent than at these sites. A full-time caretaker at Milltown Hill will help to minimize vandalism and the hydrants on the pipeline would serve forest lands.

7. Douglas County feels that this type of mitigation is not warranted at this time. The County's experience on other reservoir projects has not resulted in a fire problem.

Thank you for your review and comment.

Oregon

MEMORANDUM

DEPARTMENT OF
FISH AND
WILDLIFE



DATE: February 3, 1992
TO: Rick Bastasch
FROM: Stephanie Burchfield *SB*
SUBJECT: Milltown Hill Project, Douglas County
ODFW Comments on the Draft EIS

Attached are the comments of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife on the subject reservoir storage project. Please call me at 229-5410, ext 441, or Rick Kruger at ext 437, if you have any questions on our comments.

c: Jim Fessler, Roseburg
Dave Loomis, Roseburg
Steve Denney, Roseburg
Jim Collins, Roseburg
Ray Temple, Fish Division
Donavin Leckenby, Wildlife Division
Rick Kruger, HCD
Jill Zamowitz, HCD
HCD File - Bureau of Reclamation - Water Project
Studies/N. Douglas County



2501 SW First Avenue
PO Box 59
Portland, OR 97207
(503) 229-5400

Comments of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
on the
Milltown Hill Project, Douglas County, Oregon
Draft Environmental Impact Statement
February 3, 1992

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) staff has worked closely with Douglas County, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Bureau of Reclamation on the impacts of the proposed Milltown Hill project and the mitigation proposals described in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

ODFW was consulted with and involved in the fish and wildlife habitat studies that were performed to evaluate potential impacts and benefits of the proposed storage dam and reservoir. Staff also participated in the development of mitigation plans and review of fisheries benefit estimations.

As a result of the close coordination with ODFW and other resource agencies, ODFW believes that Douglas County has developed a proposed storage project that will result in overall net benefits to fish and wildlife and their habitats. ODFW supports the project and believes that, for the most part, the draft EIS adequately assessed potential impacts and benefits of the project.

There are a number of sections in the draft EIS where ODFW recommends either corrections, modifications, or additions. The following specific comments are organized by page and section numbers in the draft EIS:

Page S-4, Project Functions, Anadromous Fisheries

ODFW believes that storage for fisheries and water temperature control should have the same priority of refill as the other two primary purposes of municipal and industrial and irrigation. The proposed project is not economically feasible without maximum fishery benefits. The effect of a secondary refill priority for the fish and temperature storage space will be lower flow releases and less temperature control in many years, which will result in fishery benefits substantially below those anticipated for the project. Data presented in the DEIS show that storage for fish releases will fill to the full 7,737 acre-foot capacity in only two out of every ten years (Figure 3-8-5). Fish releases will be 16 percent less than full capacity in one of every two years, 22 percent less than full one in every four years, and 35 percent less than full one in every ten years. During these times of water shortage, neither of the other two primary purposes are proposed to share in the shortage. ODFW does not consider this an equitable distribution of benefits for a project that cannot be justified without maximum fishery benefits. ODFW recommends that all three primary purposes contributing economic feasibility for the project share equally in the storage of available water during all water years.

Page 1-4, 1.2.3 Wildlife Habitat

This section is very weak and speaks only in general terms. This section should include specifics on acres affected by the project, how the project area has been altered by past practices, specifically what will be lost as a result of the project, and what mitigation proposals would do to affect losses (wetland losses, Columbian White-tailed Deer, snag management, pond development, berms, etc).

1. The County does not consider that fish resources have a "secondary refill priority". As discussed in the response to comment #11 of the Oregon Water Resources Department (WRD) letter on page 12, only about 60% of the arable land will receive water. Thus, the downgrading for irrigation occurred partially to provide fish enhancement water.

The project will not store or utilize natural flow except when such flow is in excess of that required to meet downstream needs, including existing minimum flows and water rights. Municipal (and industrial) and fish water will have similar priority of fill while irrigation will have the least. To meet "target flow", 5,180 acre feet are needed to supplement releases. The 7,737 acre feet includes the carryover for dry years to meet target flows.

2. This reference is to the "purpose and need" section which was not intended to provide detailed impact information. Chapter 3 of the EIS provides greater detail as requested.

Page 2-5, 2.2.2.2 Storage Allocations

3. The discussion of how instream flows needed for protection of aquatic life will be provided needs clarification. A Certified Water Right for natural flows currently exists for instream flows for the purpose of supporting aquatic life. The proposed project will obtain a water right for stored water, which will allow storage of water in excess of natural flows required to meet all existing senior water rights. As part of the project storage water right, the proposed fish enhancement releases will be in addition to any natural flows required to satisfy the Instream Water Right. This second paragraph in this section appears to say that the instream water right for aquatic life may not be met in order that the project can store water. It also appears to say that the instream water right may be met by a combination of stored water released for other purposes, or by releases of stored water for fish enhancement. If this is the case, ODFW believes that this may not be legal or acceptable. ODFW recommends that this section be amplified to describe exactly how the project will be operated to pass natural flows to meet downstream water rights during all months, store water in excess of this amount, and release additional water for project purposes during specified periods.

Page 2-9, 2.2.2.8 Utilities

4. Will the placement of the power transmission towers and lines cause impacts to birds (e.g., raptors, waterfowl and passerines)? All transmission lines should be constructed so as to eliminate possible electrocution of resident and migrant raptors, following methods prescribed in "Suggested Practices for Raptor Protection on Power Lines" (Olendorff, Miller, and Lehman, Raptor Research Report No. 4, Raptor Research Foundation, Inc., 1981). ODFW recommends that this be addressed in detail in Section 3.1.14 Wildlife Resources.

Page 2-14, 2.2.2.13.1 Reservoir Area Wildlife Habitat

5. The draft EIS is vague in its description of the snag development programs, both here and in Section 3.1.14.3. No specifics are offered such as locations of snag areas, target number of snags desired, or plan to perpetuate snags through time such as planting new trees or creating snags as old trees fall down. There are also no specifics on the number of nest platforms for Osprey and Canada Geese or wood duck nest box structures that will be placed, nor is information provided on who will pay for construction, placement, maintenance, and replacement of these structures over time. It will be necessary to provide this information in a site-specific plan developed prior to initiation of project construction, in accordance with ODFW Fish and Wildlife Habitat Mitigation Policy (OAR 635-415-000 - 030).

Page 2-15, 2.2.2.13.2 Wetlands

6. Would the three-acre log pond purchased by the County north of Yoncalla be for wetland loss mitigation or for loss of wildlife habitat? There are no specifics about what measures will be undertaken to enhance the wetlands at the pond site, time line for the work to be completed, what target species will benefit, and whether or not the recreation site development will impact wildlife use in the area. Again, a site specific plan is needed for adequate review.

Page 2-18, 2.2.2.15 Construction Schedule and Work Sequence, Figure 2.8

7. This graph indicates that all wildlife mitigation work will be completed during July, August, and September of the fourth work year. Some measures such as obtaining habitat within the Columbian White-tailed Deer area, wildlife plantings, and snag development can be

3. See responses to ODFW comment #1 above. In addition, if, in the judgement of ODFW, the flow of Elk Creek is not sufficient, additional enhancement flow will be released and protected by the project water right.

4. A transmission line to provide power to the project would be constructed along Dark Canyon Road. Design would be consistent with "Suggested Practices for Raptor Protection on Power Lines" (Olendorff, Miller, and Lehman, Raptor Research Report No. 4, Raptor Research Foundation, Inc., 1981).

5. Douglas County will develop detailed plans for the wildlife mitigation measures consistent with the concepts that have been discussed in the DEIS and with ODFW and as described by USFWS in their Coordination Act Report. These plans will be prepared prior to and during construction by Douglas County in cooperation with ODFW and USFWS. It is the County's responsibility to pay for construction, placement, maintenance, and replacement of these structures.

6. The three-acre log pond has been deleted as a project mitigation. A decision to remove the log pond from the project was made after further investigation by the County determined that water quality in the log pond was not as they had anticipated based on prior conversations, and that a considerable clean-up liability may be incurred if the pond was part of the project.

7. Douglas County will develop detailed plans for the wildlife mitigation measures and schedule activities for mitigation that do not conflict with construction or that could not be compromised by construction. The County will coordinate the scheduling of mitigation activities with ODFW and USFWS.

accomplished before this time. ODFW recommends that the County modify its wildlife mitigation work plan, in consultation with ODFW, to begin implementation of some of the measures as soon as possible.

Pages 3-20 - 23, 3.1.8.1 Existing Surface Water Quantity

8. This section needs more clarification of minimum flows. Does this refer to the minimum perennial stream flows established in 1974 that were converted to instream water rights in 1989? Although these flows are indicated in Figure 3-8-1, the amount of each monthly instream water right should be listed in a table, or perhaps incorporated in Table 3-8-1. It would also be helpful to have the numerical values for pre-1974 and post-1974 displayed in Table 3-8-1 for the entire water year. The amount of flow available and the water rights for the entire year are relevant because the proposed project will impact streamflows throughout the year, and data presented in the impact assessment section indicate that senior water rights for natural flow may be violated during part of the storage period. The discussion of water rights in this section should indicate that all existing rights are for natural flows, and that the proposed project would obtain a new water right for storage during the fall, winter and spring.

Pages 3-23 -24, 3.1.8.2.2 Operation

9. The last sentence of Paragraph 1 states that winter flows in excess of those needed to meet instream flow requirements would be stored in the reservoir for release later in the year. The instream water right for the reach below the diversion site is for 70 cfs from November through April, and 10 and 30 cfs in October. ODFW assumes that these are the flows that the County intends to release during the winter months. As recommended above, the DEIS should identify these flows in a table and state that the flows will be passed at the project.

10. ODFW recognizes that the Instream Water Right is for the reach of Elk Creek from Curtis Creek (RM 33.8) to Pass Creek (RM 24.2), and is measured at the gage above Pass Creek (RM 26.2). ODFW also recognizes that something less than the full Instream Water Right flows are contributed by the watershed above the proposed damsite. ODFW recommends that County consult with ODFW and WRD to determine how much water must be passed at the project in all months in order to ensure compliance with the Instream Water Right and any other senior natural flow rights.

11. ODFW supports Douglas County's plan to allocate a portion of the stored water to meet instream flow needs. ODFW is uncertain how the stored water will be used to augment natural flows already protected as an Instream Water Right. ODFW considers that there is a difference between the flows specified in the Instream Water Right and the instream flow needs of fish and other aquatic life in Elk Creek, particularly during the summer months. The Instream Water Right that was converted in 1989 from the 1974 Minimum Perennial Streamflows were not as high as ODFW requested. ODFW requested as minimum flows 10 cfs in July, August and September. ODFW believes that these are minimums and that additional flow is necessary to approach good habitat conditions. Water stored for fishery enhancement and temperature control would be released in addition to any natural flow that may happen to be present, if any, in an effort to improve habitat conditions over minimum levels. Flows released from storage for other purposes will also contribute toward improved habitat conditions, but it is uncertain how dependable these benefits will be over the life of the project.

12. The text does not describe whether the amount of water allocated for other uses such as municipal, industrial, and irrigation will also be decreased during low water years. ODFW

9. The text has been revised to clarify that minimum flow refers to instream water rights. Table 3-8-1 has been revised to include instream water rights.

Douglas County will operate the reservoir to avoid violation of water rights during the storage period.

9. The County will meet streamflow releases as required. See response #1 and #8 above.

10. The County will consult with ODFW and WRD. This is an environmental commitment (See: Appendix B).

11. Releases for prior rights will not be affected. When natural flows to the reservoir are above prior rights, water will be stored. When natural flows are below prior rights, the natural flows will be released.

Douglas County has allocated water for fish enhancement. ODFW will have sole discretion on how these flows are released for fish enhancement.

12. See response to comment #11 above.

believes that in low water years, all users should share the shortage rather than placing all of the burden on the fisheries and aquatic resources. The exact methodology for determining how this allocation is decreased must be developed as part of the environmental assessment and estimation of fishery benefits. Once the project is operational, annual, pre-season coordination between the County, ODFW and WRD will be necessary to establish flow regimes and operational parameters to guide flow releases and avoid disputes during the course of each water year. The draft EIS should be revised to reflect this concept and describe how it will be implemented.

13. Tables 3-8-5 and 6 show Total Project flows at the dam (7 and 10 cfs, respectively) that are less than existing natural flow (22 and 25 cfs, respectively) during May. This would indicate that storage is occurring in the reservoir during May. This will reduce the flow in Elk Creek in the reach where there is an Instream Water Right for 50 cfs in May. The tables show that the Instream Water Right is met at Boswell Springs, the point of measurement. As stated above, ODFW would expect that something less than the full 50 cfs would be contributed by the watershed above the damsite, and would not expect all of the natural flow in May to be needed to meet the Instream Water Right. However, the DEIS lacks adequate information to determine what the level of release from the dam would have to be to ensure that the Instream Water Right is met. Furthermore, all of the discussion of project flows to this point has been based on average monthly or annual values. If Tables 3-8-5 and 6 are also based on average monthly flows, it is likely that instantaneous flows could fall below the Instream Water Right for short to moderate periods and not be reflected in average monthly values. In other places in the DEIS, the County commits to operating the project in compliance with the existing water rights, including the Instream Water Right. ODFW is concerned that the level of detail and the time step of the proposed flow regimes lacks adequate resolution to evaluate the proposed flow regimes and their compliance with other water rights. ODFW recommends that a more detailed analysis and display of project operations be presented in the DEIS, for the entire year, so that potential conflicts such as the one above for May can be identified and avoided.

14. Paragraph 4 of this section the County proposes a "target" flow release of 5 cfs from the dam, 45 cfs at Boswell Springs, and 15 cfs at the mouth of Elk Creek. The precise nature of a target flow is not described. In ODFW's experience, target means something that will be achieved, if possible, but no guarantee is made that it will be achieved. ODFW has not found the target flow concept acceptable in other recent situations. Given that natural flows are low or absent during July through September, and the project will be releasing stored water to augment natural flows, a target flow concept may be acceptable for the proposed project during the months of July, August and September. However, as expressed above, ODFW is unclear on exactly how the project will be operated to ensure compliance with the existing Instream Water Right throughout the year, and how the fish flow storage allocation will be used for augmentation. The Instream Water Right or inflow (whichever is less) must be passed during all months and should not be deducted from the fish flow storage allocation. When stored water is released for flow augmentation, it should be in addition to any natural flow present, and ODFW should determine the volume and pattern of fish flow releases. ODFW requests that the proposed target flow concept be defined in the DEIS and that a more detailed explanation of proposed operations and storage and release schedules be provided in the DEIS.

Page 3-24, 3.1.8.2.2 Operation

15. An assessment of the impact of the proposed project on flood control and the reduction of flood damage is not presented. Section 3.1.8.1 Existing Surface Water Quantity includes a detailed discussion of existing flooding and damage conditions in Elk Creek, including flood frequency,

Douglas County agrees that coordination is needed and strongly supports annual or more frequent meetings. See response to comment #10 above.

13. These tables were prepared as a simple example of how the project could affect flows during the summer months. They were intended to show low and average water years with fish enhancement flows that would have been available. The fish enhancement flows were distributed arbitrarily. The distribution of fish enhancement flows will be at the discretion of ODFW. All water rights, including instream water rights, will be met on a seniority basis and enforced by the water master.

14. The project was sized based on "target flows" which the computer analysis attempted to meet. Under these assumptions, a target flow of 5 cfs at the dam was met 100% of the time; a target flow of 45 cfs at Boswell Springs is met 95% of the time; and a target flow of 15 cfs is met 98% of the time at the mouth. Since the natural flows during summer is considerably less than those proposed as target flows, the fish resources should benefit. Also, see response to comment #1 above.

ODFW will have sole authority for release of flows stored for fisheries enhancement. A more detailed plan will be prepared and a memorandum of agreement will be prepared between County and ODFW prior to project operation. See response to comment #10 of WRD letter on page 12.

15. A flood control study was made by Douglas County and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Based on that study, flood control benefits from the project are relatively minor. The minor flood control benefits did not justify additional discussion in the DEIS.

volume and associated monetary damage. Since flood control benefits are claimed for the project, as part of its justification, it seems appropriate to include an assessment of the reduction in flood frequency, volume and damage as part of the surface water quantity impact assessment section.

Pages 3-26 - 27, 3.1.8.3 Mitigation of Impacts to Surface Water Quantity

16. This section briefly identifies the 7,737 acre-feet of stored water as a benefit to fisheries resources by increasing summer flows and lowering summer water temperatures. It also mentions that the County and fish and wildlife agencies will develop a plan for release of the stored water. ODFW agrees that this plan is needed to avoid in-season disputes, however, ODFW had been led to believe that the fish and wildlife agencies would have nearly complete control over how and when to release the stored water allocated for fisheries resources. For this reason, the draft EIS should state that the plan should be developed by the fish and wildlife agencies and reviewed by Douglas County to assure that the plan is consistent with dam safety and flood control requirements. ODFW anticipates that the flow plan will set out general guidelines of the volume and rate of "fish flow" releases for each month, yet the plan will allow for these flows to be adjusted within a season and between years based on results of monitoring of fish presence, water quality, and water quantity supplied by release of stored water for other purposes.

17. Another concern that is not dealt with in the draft EIS is how the flow releases for fisheries resources will be protected from downstream diversions. While Water Resources Department holds instream water rights (on behalf of ODFW) with a priority date of 1974 for Elk Creek, these are rights to natural flow. The releases from storage, while intended to meet the instream flow needs, will actually be given water rights as stored water. Legally, downstream diversions, regardless of their priority date for natural flow, will not have a right to divert the stored "fish flows." The project operation and monitoring plan that will be prepared should include mechanisms to insure that the fish flows are not subsequently diverted for out-of-stream uses.

Page 3-31 - 32, 3.1.9.2.1 Construction Impacts to Water Quality

18. This section indicates that the pipeline will be buried along an existing road. The text states that the pipeline would make ten stream crossings, and then lists fifteen locations: three on Elk Creek, six on Yoncalla Creek, and six on several other tributaries to Elk Creek. This inconsistency should be corrected. Moreover, an effort should be made to avoid stream crossings where possible.

19. On page 3-32, the construction of the trenches to bury the pipeline under the streambed is summarized. In the construction plan proposed in these comments under section 3.1.15.2.1, page 3-56, designs of these trenches should be included and measures to assure that fish passage is not impaired by the buried pipeline described.

Page 3-33 3.1.9.2.2 Operation

20. The first paragraph on page 3-33 is unclear in its reference to "released material". ODFW assumes this means phytoplankton and zooplankton or other forms of organic material that will be produced in the late environment and released to the downstream environment. However, the preceding discussion in the DEIS is concerning physical conditions in the reservoir and makes no mention of planktonic production. Within this context, it could be taken that the

16. A Memorandum of Agreement will be developed between Douglas County and ODFW for storage and release of the stored water. ODFW would have control over the storage and release of water allocated to fish.

17. The downstream water users will not have and cannot obtain a water right for these waters released for fish enhancement. The water master will regulate the diversion of water.

18. Number of stream crossings (15) have been minimized to the extent possible. The inconsistency has been corrected in the final EIS.

19. Pipeline trenches will be designed to minimize impacts. Measures to minimize impacts will be provided in detail in the application for the Section 404 permit.

20. "Released Material" refers to any material that could be used by aquatic organisms as a food supply. This includes phytoplankton and zooplankton as well as any organic or inorganic material. The focus was to describe that an increase in aquatic invertebrates would be expected because of these releases. The text in the final EIS has been revised.

"released material" is referring to inorganic materials. ODFW recommends that the clarity and context of this discussion be improved.

Page 3-48, 3.1.14.1 Existing Wildlife Conditions

21. The list of furbearers should also include Bobcat.

Page 3-52, 3.1.14.3 Mitigation of Impacts to Wildlife

22. The County discusses restoration of the project site with plantings, fencing, etc., but does not provide any specifics on the project such as location, species involved, and maintenance over time or monitoring to see if restoration accomplishes the objectives. A detailed wildlife mitigation plan should be developed by the County and approved by ODFW prior to project construction that describes each of the measures that will be implemented, when this work will be accomplished, and how maintenance and monitoring will take place.

23. Paragraph 3 does not describe how the proposed islands in the pond development will be constructed. Will the islands be rip-rapped to prevent erosion and deterioration of the island sites? ODFW recommends that this level of detail be included in the wildlife mitigation plan.

24. The discussion regarding mitigation of impacts to wetlands in sections 3.1.11.3 (Vegetation) and 3.1.14.3 (Wildlife) raises several questions. First, creation of 23 acres of wetland by excavating or berming 10 to 15 ponds in the upper end of the proposed reservoir raises questions of effectiveness and long term maintenance. The ponds will alternately be inundated (potentially for long periods) and exposed. During periods of inundation and partial inundation, ODFW is uncertain that planted vegetation will 1) survive, and 2) provide effective protection against wave action erosion of the berms. During periods of exposure, ODFW is uncertain how water levels necessary to create and sustain wetland characteristics will be maintained. Based on information presented in the DEIS, ODFW is not confident that proposed wetland mitigation measures will be successful or sustained over the life of the project. Second, wetlands are considered wildlife habitat of high value, and are subject to provisions of ODFW's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Mitigation Policies (OAR 635-415-000 to -030). It is presently standard practice to mitigate for wetlands lost on an acre-for-acre basis. The DEIS proposes to mitigate for the loss of 31 acres of wetlands with 23 acres of created wetlands, which is substantially less than acre-for-acre replacement. Justification for the discrepancy in the DEIS is that the created wetlands will be of "high quality" compared to the lost wetland areas. ODFW may find this trade-off acceptable, if the created wetlands in fact are effective and provide replacement of equivalent wetland functional values. However, information is not presented in the DEIS which depicts the comparative functional values or demonstrates that the proposed created wetlands will be successful and/or maintained over the life of the project. ODFW recommends that additional information and analysis be incorporated into the DEIS that addresses the above concerns.

25. Paragraph 4 indicates that Osprey platforms and wood duck boxes will be built in the Waller Creek arm, yet it fails to provide specifics on the number of platforms or boxes that will be placed.

26. There should be more discussion in on the existing habitat conditions and habitat enhancement for the Western pond turtle. This animal is a Federal category 2 candidate species, and a petition has recently been filed with the US Fish and Wildlife Service to list the turtle as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. ODFW anticipates that the species will be listed before the project is completed. The turtle is also an Oregon Listed Sensitive Species. As a

21. Bobcat has been added to the list.

22. The intent was to identify measures that could be implemented. Implementation would be on private property and would require land owner permission and or cooperation. The County will take the lead in developing a program for identifying degraded areas, possible restoration measures, and funding sources. Such measures are now funded through the County SHIP program; the state STEP program; and the state GWEB program.

23. The wildlife mitigation plan will include this level of detail. See response to comment #5 above.

24. The application for the Removal/Fill permit from DSL Section 404 permit from the Corps will detail the location design, size, water depths, plants, and anticipated maintenance. The creation of 23 acres of wetlands of "high" quality compared to the loss of the 31 acres considered to be of low quality more than mitigates the loss. Water levels will be sustained considerably longer in the created wetlands than in the present wetlands which are dry by late spring. A detailed plan will be prepared for the permit application to address these concerns.

25. The specifics will be identified in the wildlife mitigation plan that the County will prepare in consultation with ODFW and USFWS. See response #5 above. The plan will indicate the number of platforms and boxes and the possible locations contingent upon removal of timber for safety considerations.

26. The petition was filed January 15, 1992 after the DEIS was prepared. The County will implement a survey to identify western pond turtle habitat and the presence of the species. If the species is subsequently proposed for listing or listed as a

Sensitive Species, under ODFW's Habitat Mitigation Policy, habitat for the Western pond turtle is considered Category 2, which requires no net loss of habitat and a detailed mitigation plan. If listed under the Endangered Species Act as either threatened or endangered, the habitat category would become Category 1, which requires no loss of habitat. There is virtually no discussion of existing habitat amounts, distribution or conditions for the Western pond turtle and only very vague references to net positive effects on habitats by the project, in either the wildlife resource or endangered species sections. Considerably more information and analysis should be incorporated to make the assessment adequate. The County is referred to a recent report on the Western pond turtle for additional information (Holland, Dan. C., 1991. A synopsis of the ecology and status of the Western pond turtle. University of Southwest Louisiana, Lafayette, LA. 141 pp.) Additional consultation with ODFW on mitigation measures will likely be required as part of providing the requested additional detail for the DEIS.

27. With regard to the discussion of the snag development in the Walker Arm area, who will be responsible for determining which hazard trees need to be removed? Can the tops be removed and the trunk sections left for wildlife habitat needs? ODFW would like to be involved in these decisions. As with several other resource mitigation matters, a mitigation plan will be necessary to establish and guide the mitigation efforts for snag development and long-term management. The County is referred to ODFW's Habitat Mitigation Policy for more information on mitigation requirements and preparation of mitigation plans (OAR 635-415-000 to -030).

28. ODFW is very supportive of Douglas County's commitment to providing secure habitat for Columbian White-tailed deer, which is required to delist the species under the Endangered Species Act. ODFW requests that the County consult with ODFW wildlife biologists in Roseburg in identifying lands to be secured, initiating landowner contacts, and securing habitat for Columbian White-tailed deer. ODFW also requests that a detailed plan for securing Columbian White-tailed deer habitat be developed that would include timeline, procedures, and specific areas, along with other requirements of mitigation plans, as discussed below.

29. Paragraph 6 describes management of the upstream end of the reservoir as a wildlife habitat area for both game and nongame wildlife. ODFW supports the decision to allow hunting in the project area.

Page 3-54, 3.1.15.1 Existing Fisheries Resources

30. ODFW agrees with this description of existing fisheries resources and fish habitat. Limited spawning and rearing habitat, caused by low summer flows, warm water temperatures, and a lack of gravel, riffles, and other instream structures, has resulted in low productivity of both resident and anadromous species.

Page 3-56, 3.1.15.2.1 Construction Impacts to Fisheries, Resources and Habitat

31. ODFW agrees with the estimated annual production loss of 50 adult coho and 50 winter steelhead as a result of installing the dam without fish passage facilities. Although fish passage is usually required at new impoundments, ODFW agreed with Douglas County that proposed fisheries mitigation measures are expected to result in much improved natural production of anadromous and resident fish.

32. Paragraphs 2 through 4 describe construction impacts as minimal. ODFW recommends that construction impacts be avoided where possible and that a construction plan be developed and reviewed by ODFW at least six months prior to initiation of construction. This plan should

threatened or endangered species, Reclamation in conjunction with Douglas County will consult with USFWS and ODFW and provide a more detailed biological assessment for the western pond turtle.

27. The hazard trees that will be removed will be those that affect public safety. The County will make the decision to remove trees that may be a liability because of public safety concerns. BLM, ODFW and USFWS will be consulted during the development of the detailed mitigation plan.

28. Douglas County will identify lands in consultation with ODFW and USFWS that could be secured for white-tailed deer. The County also will prepare a plan prior to and during construction that describes procedures, criteria, and time frames for the identification and securing of these wildlife mitigation lands. Douglas County intends to secure land through deed covenants, not purchase of private property.

29. No response needed.

30. No response needed.

31. No response needed.

32. Application for Division of State Lands Removal/Fill and Corps Section 404 permits will address most, if not all, of the construction concerns. Other construction plans will be developed, as appropriate, during application for other permits for the project.

provide details of construction of the coffer dams, diversion structure, road crossings and pipeline crossings, as well as provide descriptions of how erosion, water quality impacts, and riparian and stream habitat damage will be avoided. As noted for page 3-32, the pipeline should be routed to minimize river crossings and impacts to riparian habitats and wetlands.

Pages 3-56 - 60, 3.1.15.2.2 Operation Impacts to Fisheries

33. This section describes the stored water that will be available to benefit instream aquatic resources. Please refer to ODFW comments above with respect to providing more information on how the project will be operated in compliance with existing water rights and how water will be stored, allocated and released for fishery enhancements.

34. ODFW concurs with the County's understanding that ODFW would receive a new instream water right for stored water, which will be issued by the Water Resources Department (page 3-59). ODFW also concurs with the County that the time and amount of stored water release will be at the discretion of ODFW, and could occur at any time of the year for enhancement of spawning, rearing, passage or attraction, depending on management objectives.

35. On page 3-60, the draft EIS discusses the mitigation measures that are proposed to improve stream habitat, riparian habitat, and fish passage at Cunningham Dam. ODFW supports these mitigation measures and believes that they will result in increased fish production for both resident and anadromous fish as well as promote biological diversity in the Elk Creek ecosystem.

Page 3-61, Tables 3-15-2 and 3-15-3 Estimation of Fishery Benefits

36. ODFW believes that the project will provide net fishery benefits and should be developed.

Pages 3-61 - 63, 3.1.15.3 Mitigation of Fisheries Impacts

37. ODFW generally agrees with the text in this section, provided that the recommendations made with respect to previous sections are adopted in the final EIS. Additionally, this section should indicate that the fisheries mitigation monitoring and evaluation plan will be developed by Douglas County, and reviewed and approved by ODFW as soon as possible. Some portions of the monitoring program are already being implemented, and the plan needs to describe how and when these and other portions will proceed.

38. Further, this section needs to indicate which of the mitigation measures can and will be implemented prior to project construction.

Page 3-63, 3.1.16 Threatened and Endangered Species

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has upgraded the Western Pond Turtle to a Category 2 species.

39. The form and content of this section is not consistent with previous sections on wildlife and fisheries for description of existing resources, assessment of impacts, and development of mitigation measures to address adverse impacts. In its present form, this section does not provide adequate information on existing resources, impacts and mitigation measures to support conclusions that habitats for the Western pond turtle and Umpqua chub will or may be enhanced by the proposed project. Information to support these conclusions is also not presented in the wildlife or fish resource sections. The Western pond turtle is an Oregon listed Sensitive Species,

See response #18 above.

33. See response #11 to WRD comments on page 12.

34. ODFW would apply to the Water Resources Department for a water right. The discretionary release applies only to that water stored for fish enhancement and not to water stored for other purposes.

35. Although the County would evaluate, in consultation with ODFW, USFWS, and NMFS, the impact of Cunningham Dam on the success of fish enhancement efforts, the redesign and any refurbishing would be the responsibility of the dam permit holder rather than the County. Current state statutes require that ODFW take appropriate action, if needed.

36. No response needed.

37. The text of the final EIS has been changed to indicate that details of the fisheries mitigation and enhancement plan, and the monitoring and evaluation plan will be developed by Douglas County in consultation with ODFW, USFWS, and NMFS.

38. Fisheries mitigation measures proposed prior to construction are most likely limited to plan preparation for supplementation and initiation of supplementation activities. Consultation with ODFW, USFWS, and NMFS will be initiated prior to construction.

39. The form and content is different because of the Endangered Species Act requirements. A separate biological assessment was prepared by BR for threatened and endangered species to comply with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. The biological assessment was reviewed and approved by USFWS. The biological assessment addressed all listed species and candidate species, including the western pond turtle and Umpqua chub. This section will be updated to reflect the completion of the biological assessment, USFWS's biological opinion and the petition for the western pond turtle.

Memo: Rick Bastasch
February 3, 1992

Milltown Hill DEIS
Page 9

which places it in Oregon Habitat Category 2, and requires a detailed mitigation plan ensuring no net loss of habitat and achievement of full mitigation within 5 years of project approval. While the Umpqua chub is not presently listed as a Sensitive Species, ODFW is quite concerned over habitat protection for the chub. If either species becomes listed as threatened or endangered the habitat category will be elevated to Category 1, which does not permit any habitat loss. ODFW recommends that detailed impact assessments and descriptions of proposed mitigation measures and mitigation plans be incorporated into the DEIS, in either the Threatened and Endangered Species or respective wildlife or fish resource sections.

Page 3-64 3.1.16.1.2 Columbian White-tailed Deer

40. The Roseburg population is currently estimated to be 6000 White-tailed Deer (Steve Denney, ODFW, personal communication, 1992).

Mitigation Plans, Monitoring and Maintenance

41. Several plans for mitigation of fish, wildlife, wetlands, project operations, and others are referred to in the preceding comments. In addition to these mitigation plans, a number of protection plans are also necessary for the construction phase. These plans are separate documents that will be prepared by Douglas County, reviewed and approved by WRD, ODFW, DEQ or other agencies as part of construction and operation of the project. Plans that will be required can generally be grouped into construction phase protection plans and operational phase mitigation and protection plans. Construction phase protection plans include, but are not limited to: detailed final designs, construction plan, transmission line raptor-proofing and right-of-way management, a plan for control of erosion, sediment, and dust, and and slope stability, water quality monitoring, construction waste and hazardous materials control, spoils disposal, project roads and construction facilities. Operational phase protection and mitigation plans include, but are not limited to: fish mitigation, wildlife mitigation, wetlands mitigation, riparian habitat mitigation, reservoir area wildlife habitat management, and project operation and management.

42. Mitigation and protection plans should be prepared in accordance with ODFW's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Mitigation Policies (OAR 635-415-000 to 635-415-030). The plans should: 1) describe the location, physical and operational characteristics, and duration of the proposed project, 2) describe the fish and wildlife species and habitats to be affected by the proposed project, 3) describe the nature, extent, and duration of the impacts expected to result from the proposed project, 4) describe the mitigation measures which shall be taken to achieve the fish and wildlife habitat mitigation goals and standards of OAR 635-415-030, 5) complement and not diminish mitigation provided for other development actions, 6) describe standards and methods for post-development monitoring of the effectiveness of mitigation measures, 7) provide for future modification of the mitigation measures that may be required to meet the goals and standards established by the plan, and 8) be effective throughout the lifetime of the proposed project. ODFW anticipates including the requirement for these plans as conditions of the water right that Douglas County will obtain from the Water Resources Department.

Conclusion

43. Overall, ODFW is very supportive of the project and believes that it will provide significant benefits to fish and wildlife species. ODFW recommends, however, that the draft EIS be revised to require detailed mitigation plans as well as mitigation monitoring and maintenance plans. These plans should be developed in consultation with and approved by ODFW prior to initiation of project construction. Additionally, many of the mitigation and monitoring measures can and should be implemented prior to construction.

A detailed mitigation plan will be prepared for the western pond turtle prior to and during construction as other wildlife mitigation measures are developed.

40. The text in the final EIS has been revised.

41. Construction plans will be prepared as appropriate during application for various permits. See response #32 above. Operation plans will be prepared as appropriate prior to and during construction of the project.

42. Mitigation plans will be prepared in coordination with ODFW and USFWS for fish and wildlife resources. Previous documents including the EIS, USFWS Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report, biological assessment for threatened and endangered species, and other supporting documents have been prepared and can be used for the basis for the mitigation plans.

43. Reclamation agrees that detailed mitigation plans are necessary. These plans will be prepared prior to and during construction of the project. The implementation of mitigation and monitoring measures prior to construction may be counter productive, although the planning for such measures should be implemented. Douglas County will be responsible for the mitigation and monitoring plans.

Thank you for your review and comments.



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
Pacific Northwest Region
83 South King Street, Suite 212
Seattle, Washington 98104



L7619 (PNR-RE)
DES-91/0033

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation, Boise

From: Associate Regional Director, Recreation Resources and Professional Services, Pacific Northwest Region

Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Milltown Hill Project, Douglas County, Oregon

1. The draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is incomplete in its consideration of cultural resources for the preferred project alternative, i.e., the construction of the Milltown Hill dam at site 12 on Elk Creek, and it does not address the potential cultural resource impacts of the other alternative locations considered. It is evident that the dam will involve the construction of a large number of structures or other features that will disturb the landscape. Yet not all of these features have been surveyed, and National Register-eligibility determinations have not been obtained for the prehistoric and historic resources located thus far. All such features will require archaeological survey except as may be specified by the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO).

The draft EIS should describe the agency's efforts to locate all cultural resources that will be, or may be, affected directly or indirectly by the project. Specifically, it should contain maps indicating the project areas surveyed and levels of coverage; photographs of these areas; a discussion of the survey methods, conditions, visibility, and coverage; and explicit professional or other justification for not surveying any affected areas now or at any time. It should also contain evaluations of the significance and National Register eligibility of located cultural resources.

3. Cultural resources such as sites, places, use areas, materials, or objects of importance to Native American or other ethnic groups should also be investigated with respect to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR 800), National Park Service Bulletin #38 "Guidelines for Evaluating and Documenting Traditional Cultural Properties", the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, and the American Indian Religious Freedom Act. The draft EIS should document agency consultation with such groups and the SHPO to locate such resources, determine their National Register eligibility, and decide their best treatment.

1. The EIS addresses the impacts of only the preferred alternative and the no action alternative. All other alternative studies have been excluded from further consideration.
2. Douglas County has implemented contracts for cultural resources evaluations since 1988. There was a Class 1 survey in 1988 and a Class 3 survey conducted in 1990. Since that survey, studies have continued in consultation with Native Americans, SHPO, BLM, and Reclamation. Various levels of exploratory testing are underway on high probability sites to select sites for formal testing. Formal testing would be done to determine eligibility of sites to the National Register. Mitigation (data recovery) would be conducted on sites nominated. The text of the final EIS has been updated to describe testing, monitoring, and consultation processes as well as compliance with Section 106.

3. See response #2 above.

4. The draft EIS suggests that the traditional surface archeological survey was not effective in locating cultural resources in the project area because of visibility problems. It states (page 3-70) "heavy vegetation obscured the ground surface during the survey and may have prevented detection of some archeological sites" and "prehistoric archeological material was discovered in three locations where the vegetation had been removed (recorded as sites 35D0449, D0450, and D0451)...." We are concerned that these three prehistoric sites were found only where the land in the area of the proposed reservoir was exposed and that they represent the total number found by the surveys to date. Under the circumstances, it is doubtful that the Section 106 investigations could be considered complete until followup subsurface probing or testing and/or resurvey is done in all project areas where cultural resources may be present but obscured by vegetation, duff, soil, or shallow surface deposits. The final EIS should describe the results of the followup investigations or include a plan to carry them out, either prior to construction or after the reservoir is filled and drawn down.

5. The final EIS should summarize the key elements of a mitigation program developed in consultation with the SHPO and reflected in a signed Section 106 Memorandum of Agreement. The program should include a research design; a plan for further survey and testing needed in the project area; a plan for data recovery on sites that address needs defined by the research design; a plan for recording historic buildings or other structures prior to their demolition; a plan for long-term management of all cultural resources, including those determined to be significant to Native Americans or other ethnic groups; a plan for monitoring and treating cultural resources discovered during construction or reservoir operation; a plan for treating human remains and grave goods that may be exposed on Federal or other land during the investigations or the reservoir operations; and a plan for curation. The final EIS should also specify how the agency's Section 106 and other statutory obligations will be fulfilled on Bureau of Land Management lands that would be affected by the project.

Richard L. Winters
Richard L. Winters

Thank you for your review and comments.

4. See response #2 above.

5. See response #2 above.



United States Department of the Interior
FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

911 N.E. 11th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232-4181

February 12, 1992

Memorandum

To: Regional Director, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Boise, Idaho

From: Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Portland, Oregon

Subject: Review and Comments to the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for
the Milltown Hill Project, Douglas County, Oregon

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) has reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for the Milltown Hill Project, Douglas County, Oregon. The following comments are provided for your use when preparing the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS). Our Portland Field Office has been actively involved with ongoing planning and evaluation of the Milltown Hill Project for several years.

GENERAL COMMENTS:

Generally, the DEIS adequately describes and documents the planning effort, study results, potential environmental impacts of the proposed action, and appropriate mitigation measures for this project. Portions of the Service's Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report for the project (dated August, 1990) have been incorporated throughout the DEIS.

The Service supports the Milltown Hill Project as a viable and reasonable water resources development proposal to meet the needs of northern Douglas County, Oregon. It includes enhancement opportunities, and identifies measures to mitigate impacts to fish and wildlife resources and wetlands. The opportunities to enhance anadromous fish runs in Elk Creek are significant, and securing additional habitat would benefit the endangered Columbian white-tailed deer.

In addition to discussing fish and wildlife measures conceptually throughout the draft document, details should be provided on design, location, timing, or other specifics of implementation. As the project proceeds through advanced design and early construction phases, we recommend that close coordination would be maintained among the Bureau of Reclamation, Water Resources Department of Douglas County (WRD), and the resource agencies to insure that fish and wildlife measures are implemented concurrently and proportionately with the other project features.

In addition to the concerns of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), we are concerned about the level of anadromous fish benefits that have been identified for the project. Specifically, our concerns include the

1. Mitigation and enhancement measures for fish and wildlife resources are environmental commitments for the project. Detailed plans will be prepared prior to and during early construction as final design is continued. They will be implemented proportionately with other project features as feasible. See response #42 to ODFW comment on page 29.

2. Consultation has occurred with ODFW, NMFS, and USFWS for the past several years to determine fish benefits that might be expected to occur with the project. The numbers have been revised after discussions with ODFW and are in the Final EIS.

levels of anadromous fish escapement and associated catch to the escapement ratio. As part of the ODFW's ongoing Umpqua River Basin fish planning efforts, project enhancements to anadromous fish may not be consistent with, and are considerably higher than, the objectives that the ODFW can justify for the Elk Creek System. The ODFW, the Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and the WRD, as well as its consultant, are cooperating to resolve this issue by developing mutually agreeable fish benefit numbers for the project. The revised anadromous fish analysis of benefits should be addressed in the FEIS.

SPECIFIC COMMENTS

3. Page S-4, Project Features, 1st paragraph. The cooler waters during the fall and winter periods would negate benefits from the project's water temperature control feature for spawning or incubation life stages of anadromous fish species in Elk Creek. Conversely, because of warmer water during late spring and throughout summer, the temperature control would be expected to influence rearing life stages for these species as shown in Figures 3-9-1 through 3-9-4 (page 3-30). The FEIS should clarify how temperature control would influence anadromous fish life stages.
4. Page S-8, Wetlands Mitigation, 2nd paragraph. It is stated that project drainage would not occur, yet on page 2-7 a project drainage system is defined as part of the project. This should be clarified in the FEIS.
5. Page 1-3, Anadromous Fish, 2nd paragraph. Reduced temperatures with the project would not be expected to occur during the spawning time period for anadromous fish. Refer to the page S-4 comments above. On page 1-6, the time periods when temperatures are a problem do not correspond to spawning time periods for anadromous fish, with the possible exception of fall chinook in October. However, during this time period flow releases are not provided from the project (Tables 3-8-5 & 6). Therefore, the possibility of influencing spawning by reduced water temperatures seems small. The FEIS should clarify how decreased water temperatures with the project would improve spawning and egg incubation life stages.
6. Pages 2-7 & 2-8, Drainage System, 4th paragraph. This section states that there would be no project drainage or other modifications to affect wetlands and that surface drainage, filling depressions, or sub-surface drainage would be used "to prevent intermittent surface ponding and aggravation of root-zone excess moisture conditions." Impacts to wetlands would be avoided by a county enforced wetlands protective clause. However, the number of potential wetlands impacted by these actions should be disclosed, and the ODFW and the Service should be involved in the development and coordination of the wetlands protective program. The FEIS should analyze the potential wetland impacts from the full irrigation practices (including drainage), and provide options to mitigate these potential losses.
7. Page 2-15, Figure 2-3, Wildlife & Fisheries Mitigation. This figure should clarify that the land in section 28 would also be managed for terrestrial wildlife. This land, which is identified with the diagonal lines as "south of reservoir managed for terrestrial wildlife", also includes that area east of the reservoir between the pool and Romie Howard Road.

3. The draft EIS provided an impact analysis of how temperature control could influence anadromous fish life stages (pp. 3-58 to 3-60). The analysis has been expanded in the final EIS.
4. The statement on page S-8 refers to drainage of jurisdictional wetlands. A drainage system may be needed to provide optimum soil moisture conditions in areas that are not jurisdictional wetlands.
5. The flow scenarios shown in the DEIS are examples only. The actual flow release for enhancement of anadromous fish would be developed by ODFW. For example, all enhancement flows could be held until fall to provide attraction flows for fall chinook. These enhancement flows would also influence water temperatures. See response #10 to WRD comment on page 12 and response #14 to ODFW comment on page 24.
6. The location of wetlands were identified in the DEIS. There is no drainage system planned or considered for these areas. The intent of this section was to identify that drainage facilities may be necessary in some areas, although there is no drainage actually planned. The County has a minimal reserve fund for providing drainage on those areas where irrigation could exacerbate natural drainage conditions. The draft EIS and final EIS wetland analysis and environmental commitments preclude drainage of existing jurisdictional wetlands. ODFW and USFWS will be consulted as appropriate in the wetlands protective actions.
7. The area included for wildlife management is east of the reservoir to the "take line" (the N-S centerline of Section 28). The lands between the takeline and Romie Howard Road are private property, and were not obtained by Douglas County as previously proposed.

8. Page 2-18. Construction Schedule, 3rd and 4th paragraphs. We recommend that the fisheries and wildlife measures, especially those for mitigation, be implemented concurrently and proportionately with other project features. Accordingly, several of the wildlife mitigation measures should be implemented earlier in the construction phase to coincide with impacts as they occur. The wetlands construction measures at the upper end of the reservoir, as well as the brush piles, debris structures and other structures that would be part of the pool area, should be implemented during the reservoir clearing and road relocation work. Additionally, the downstream riparian fencing, vegetation planting and other restoration work should be implemented within the first 2 years of construction to offset losses that occur to this important habitat. Likewise, the securing of white-tailed deer habitat should also start early in the construction period. The FEIS should reflect these changes in the overall construction schedule.
9. Page 2-24. Table 2-3. Coordination Requirements. The compliance section of this table should identify completion of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Report (August 1990), and the report's recommendations should be incorporated into project planning and implementation.
10. Page 3-2. Construction Activities, 1st paragraph. This list of activities should also include construction and placement of brush piles, large woody debris, or other similar structures for the main pool area and upper pool south of the causeway. In addition, the wetlands excavation work may require berms, dikes, or other embankment activities for creating and maintaining the shallow basins to hold water, and may necessitate riprap or other type of revegetation as erosion control methods. These activities should be included in the list.
11. Page 3-35. Return Flows, 1st paragraph. It is stated that return flows would occur as ground water. On page 3-39, the discussion on operation of the project refers to a subsurface drainage system for return flows that would improve ground water quality; elsewhere, it is stated that a subsurface drainage system may be implemented as a future project feature. The FEIS should clarify whether the subsurface drainage system would be a part of the project, and should identify specific conditions for wetlands, ground water, and return flows both with and without a subsurface drainage system.
12. Page 3-43. Mitigation of Impacts to Vegetation, 2nd paragraph. The need to enhance wetlands where possible is identified in the description of wetland conditions on page 10; yet, the DEIS does not identify any wetland enhancement measures. Because the Service strongly recommends enhancing wetlands, we would gladly cooperate with the ODFW and the WRD to identify such opportunities. The wetlands should be restored to their original characteristics of the high value seasonal wetlands scattered throughout the service area, and the restoration effort should be in accordance with the willingness of local landowners and be consistent with the drainage system designs.

13. Page 3-61. Table 3-15-2. Fishery Benefits. As noted in the general comments, there is concern with the level of fishery benefits which are identified for the project, and the ODFW's planning objectives which are being established as part of the Umpqua River Basin Fish Management Plan. The Service is working with the ODFW, National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and the WRD to

8. The mitigation measures will be implemented as feasible during construction activities. The nature and timing of construction conflicts with certain activities, and rather than compromise mitigation, they have been designed as indicated. The downstream riparian work would occur on private property and will be implemented in several phases, including development of a plan that identifies areas needing the most improvement, land owners contact to evaluate feasibility of improvement, cost analysis, determination of funding sources, and implementation. The County will not provide funds from the project for implementation. Planning efforts could be initiated prior to the end of construction (also, see response #22 to ODFW comment on page 26). The securing of habitat for white-tailed deer has already been initiated. The County is presently identifying land parcels in the core habitat area. Implementation of the mitigation plans will be coordinated with ODFW and USFWS. See response #7 to ODFW letter on page 22.
9. The table will be revised as recommended.
10. The list referenced includes only activities associated with the project impact analysis. The mitigation and enhancement activities were not considered as activities that would potentially adversely affect resources, and were, therefore, not included on the list.
11. Section 2.2.2.6 Drainage System on page 2-7 of the DEIS describes the possibility of drainage that would be built as needed. The need for drainage facilities cannot be determined until the project is in operation. It is not possible at this time to say that it would definitely be necessary.
12. The wording should have been "protect" rather than "enhance". This has been corrected in the final EIS. The protection of wetlands in the service area is an environmental commitment. Although restoration of wetlands is not included in the project, the County is willing to consider developing such a program in coordination with ODFW and USFWS.
13. The benefit table has been revised after consultation with ODFW. See response #2. above.

identify acceptable levels of accomplishment for the project that can be presented in the FEIS.

14. Page 3-65, Biological Assessment, 4th paragraph. Concurrence and comment on the biological assessment was provided by the Service on December 12, 1991. Information from this document should be included in the FEIS.
15. Page 3-104, Vegetation, 1st paragraph. This section identifies the loss of 56 acres of "sparse riparian growth" associated with the reservoir pool, but throughout the document it is noted that 173 acres of riparian vegetation would be lost in this area (refer to pages 3-50 & 3-52). This inconsistency should be clarified in the FEIS.
16. Page B-1 through B-9, Environmental Commitments. The Service agrees with the general fish and wildlife mitigation and enhancement features that have been identified here, but believes considerable more detail needs to be developed prior to implementation. Details on design, location, amount, timing, and other considerations should be closely coordinated with the ODFW, NMFS, Service, and the WRD before measures are put into place. We also note that most of the mitigation measures are listed for the operational phase, but believe that several should be considered for implementation during construction, or an earlier phase (see comments on page 2-18 regarding construction schedule). This would be compatible with the goal of mitigating impacts concurrently and proportionally as they occur. Finally, we recommend a detailed monitoring plan as a project feature to track project accomplishments and to fine tune implementation of operations and measures over time. Details of this plan should be closely coordinated with the ODFW, the Service, and NMFS.
17. If you have questions about these comments, please direct them to Mr. Merle Richmond, our Regional Environmental Specialist, at 8/429-6150 or to Mr. Ron Garst of our Portland Field Office at 8-429-6179. We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the DEIS.

cc:
ODFW, Portland
ODFW, Roseburg
NMFS, Portland
EPA, Seattle
Portland Field Office

Mamie L. Plumb
L. PLUMB

14. Reference to and a summary of USFW's biological opinion is included in this final EIS.

15. This inconsistency has been corrected in the final EIS.

16. More detailed plans will be developed for mitigation and enhancement for fish and wildlife resources prior to and during early construction. The plans will be developed in consultation primarily with ODFW, USFWS, and NMFS; WRD would be consulted as appropriate. See response #1 above.

17. The short time period of construction and the nature of the construction activities do not lend themselves to early integration of some mitigation measures. To do so may jeopardize the effectiveness of the measures. See response #8 above.

18. A monitoring plan will be developed by Douglas County for each program as appropriate. The plan(s) will be developed in consultation with ODFW, USFWS, and NMFS.

Thank you for your review and comments.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
PORTLAND DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P O BOX 2448
PORTLAND OREGON 97208-2448

Reply to
Attention of

February 6, 1992

Planning and Engineering Division

Regional Director
Bureau of Reclamation
ATTN: PN-150
Box 043
550 West Fort Street
Boise, ID 83724

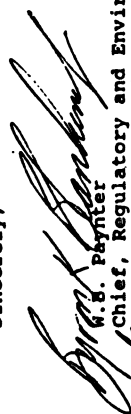
Dear Sir,

Enclosed are the comments of the Portland District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), for the proposed Milltown Hill Project in Douglas County, Oregon. Our review was based on our regulatory responsibilities, and on our functional responsibilities for flood control, hydropower, and navigation.

This project would require a Department of the Army permit under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Because of our regulatory jurisdiction, we request that we be included as a cooperating agency for this EIS as provided in CEQ regulations (40 CFR 1501.6).

If there are any questions regarding these comments, please contact Dave Kurkoski, Regulatory and Environmental Resource Branch, at (503) 326-6094 or FTS 423-6094. Thank you for the opportunity to review this Draft EIS.

Sincerely,


W.G. Paynter
Chief, Regulatory and Environmental
Resource Branch
Planning and Engineering Division

Enclosure

Douglas County has applied for a Corps Section 404 permit and an Oregon Division of State Lands Removal/Fill permit. The permit process will be completed after the FES is filed, a record of decision prepared, and the loan application process is approved. Reclamation will include the Corps of Engineers as a cooperating agency in the final EIS.

Thank you for your review and comment.

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
PORTLAND DISTRICT

COMMENTS ON
MILDTOWN HILL PROJECT
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

1. Our review of this document suggests that a jurisdictional wetlands determination has been accomplished. However, we have not been provided the opportunity to review that determination and therefore cannot comment on its adequacy. For the same reason, we cannot comment on the proposed wetland mitigation described in the DEIS. Ultimately, the adequacy of the wetlands determination and the mitigation proposal must be decided by the Corps of Engineers in the Section 404 permit evaluation process.

Page 2-8 -- middle

2. Paragraph four on this page states that "Some lands not now irrigated would require grading of portions of a field to prevent intermittent surface ponding and aggravation of root-zone excess moisture conditions. Such surface drainage improvements would consist of filling depressions...."

Paragraph five states "No project drainage or change in agricultural practices would occur to negatively affect jurisdictional wetlands."

This combination appears unlikely. From our observations of the project vicinity, areas which would require grading or filling to prevent "intermittent surface ponding and aggravation of root-zone excess moisture conditions" could well be jurisdictional wetlands. If these areas would require drainage to prevent ponding and excess root-zone moisture during the irrigation season, then that same drainage would reduce ponding and excess root-zone moisture during the spring, reducing or eliminating wetland characteristics.

Page 3-8 -- bottom

3. This paragraph states that "The primary problem regarding the suitability of area lands for sustained irrigation is restricted subsurface water movement and inadequate natural drain channels." The paragraph acknowledges that winter and spring rains can delay farm operations in the spring. The paragraph refers to two figures that show "lands that may require drainage facilities," but goes on to state that "Drainage would not affect wetlands." Areas that are wet enough to limit farm operations in the spring could well be jurisdictional wetlands.

1. Douglas County will provide wetlands delineation with documentation with the 404 permit application.

2. There were certain areas in the service area identified in the DEIS as "wetlands". These areas would not be affected. Topography in other unidentified areas that are not jurisdictional wetlands (as determined by the Corps) could result in ponding of water under irrigation conditions because of the natural or man-made contours of the land. It is these areas that were generally mentioned that may require grading or drainage. The statements in the DEIS were meant to identify minimal changes in landscape rather than large changes and were not meant to refer to wetlands. The explanation has been included in the text of the FEIS.

3. See response #2 above.



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Office of the Chief Scientist
Washington, D.C. 20230
February 24, 1992

Regional Environmental Officer
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Box 043, 550 West Fort Street
Boise, Idaho 83724

Dear Sir:

Enclosed are comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Milltown Hill Project, Douglas County, Oregon. Thank you for giving us an opportunity to review the document.

Sincerely,

David Cottingham
(for)

David Cottingham
Director
Ecology and Conservation Office

Enclosure





FEB 18 1992

**Regional Environmental Officer
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Box 043, 550 West Fort Street
Boise, Idaho 83724**

**Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Statement - Mil
Project, Douglas County, Oregon**

Dear Sir or Madam:

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has reviewed the subject document and offers the following comments.

The proposed project will involve the construction of a dam and reservoir to serve municipal, irrigation, and downstream fish flow needs in the Elk Creek system. Anadromous fish production in Elk Creek is low and is limited due to poor water quality (high summer temperatures), limited water quantity (low summer flows), and poor habitat conditions (no spawning habitat in main stem, limited rearing habitat). The project is expected to remedy these problems by providing additional flow specifically allocated for fish enhancement, cooler water temperature through the use of selective withdrawal facilities, and enhancement of spawning and rearing habitat through gravel placement, selective placement of woody debris, and riparian restoration. Project impacts include inundation of approximately 4 1/2 miles of main stem and 2 miles of tributary habitat potentially used by coho salmon and steelhead trout.

The NPS does not generally approve of development on streams that support anadromous fishes. The Elk Creek system, however, has been degraded through poor land use practices and has little potential for increased production without some action to increase flows and improve temperature and habitat conditions. The proposed project does provide a significant opportunity to enhance indigenous anadromous fish populations, but we do have some reservations.

Much of the discussion of fish enhancement measures is conceptual, with little information on actual implementation, design, contingency plans, etc. It is stated that a detailed monitoring and evaluation program would be developed and implemented as part of the project but it is not noted on the project schedule, and no timeframe is given.

1. Detailed enhancement and monitoring plans will be developed prior to and during the construction phase of the project. These plans will be developed in consultation with ODFW, USFWS, and NMFS.

ACTION
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BUREAU OF
 DIVISION RECIAMTON
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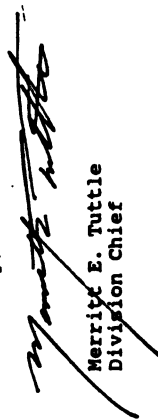
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2. It is noted that severe bank erosion that contributes to sedimentation occurs between RM 27 to RM 35. A significant portion of the gravel placement will occur downstream of RM 34.4. Will bank stabilization or other erosion control measures be considered to reduce the amount of sediment? Will a contingency plan be developed to remedy the problems if anticipated anadromous fish benefits are not being achieved? If so, who will bear ultimate responsibility for funding and implementing whatever measures are necessary to provide the projected anadromous fish benefits? These issues should be addressed in the final environmental document.

3. Although we believe that the potential improvements in water quality, water quantity, and habitat in 39 miles of main stem Elk Creek, Yoncalla Creek, and Adams Creek will offset the habitat loss associated with construction of the dam, we are not convinced that the projected anadromous fish populations will be as high as reported in the document. Planning efforts for the Umpqua Basin are underway by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and they have reported that the level of anadromous fish benefits reported in the draft environmental impact statement are not consistent with what they believe can be justified for the Elk Creek system. Since the contingency plan will likely be developed to ensure that projected anadromous fish benefits are achieved, realistic escapement goals should be used for the project.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Milltown Hill Project. Questions concerning our comments should be directed to Nicholas Iadanza, of my staff, at (503) 230-5428.

Sincerely,


Merritt E. Tuttle
Division Chief

2. The County will undertake a riparian program (as part of the Water Management Plan Goals) to identify the erosion problems, areas affected, and measures necessary to reduce or eliminate erosion on mainstem Elk Creek. The exact location of gravel placement will depend on the magnitude of sedimentation expected and will be decided in consultation with ODFW, USFWS, and NMFS. Also, see response #22 of ODFW letter on page 26.

3. The necessity for contingency plan will depend on the results of monitoring the benefits of the project. Reclamation and Douglas County believe that the project will increase fisheries resources significantly because of the increased flows, cooler water, and habitat restoration. The fishery benefits have been re-analyzed and reduced in consultation with ODFW. If monitoring shows that the anticipated benefits have not occurred, then the County will evaluate the potential reasons in consultation with ODFW, USFWS, and NMFS, and develop management and operation options that could be undertaken to result in anticipated benefits. If additional funding is necessary to implement options funding sources will depend on the reasons identified for unmet goals and the financial ability of the County to support studies.

The fisheries benefits anticipated for the project have been revised in the final EIS and have been coordinated with ODFW.

Thank you for your review and comment.



FEB 27 1992

REPLY TO
ATTN OF:

WD-126

Douglas James
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Pacific Northwest Region
Box 043, 550 West Fort Street
Boise, Idaho 83724

Dear Mr. James:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Milltown Hill Project, Elk Creek Subbasin, Umpqua River Basin in Douglas County, Oregon. Our review was conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and our responsibilities under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

This draft EIS evaluates two alternatives for providing a reliable source of water for irrigation, industrial development, domestic and municipal water supply, limited flood control, and water quality and fish habitat improvement. The draft EIS evaluates the no action alternative and a proposed 186-foot high dam. The dam would include a 24,142 acre-foot reservoir and a 18.5 mile water pipeline distribution system.

We understand the need to diversify the economy in Douglas County. The potential to improve water quality in Elk Creek and improve aquatic habitat in the process should also be pursued. However, the final EIS needs to thoroughly evaluate and document the potential effects on fish from the fish habitat improvement aspects of the project and water quality effects resulting from secondary growth.

Based on our review, we are rating this draft EIS EC-2 (Environmental Concerns-Insufficient Information). Our environmental concerns are based on the potential for adverse water quality effects resulting from secondary growth and effects on already depleted anadromous fish stocks. Additional information is needed to describe project monitoring, describe the effectiveness of mitigation measures, describe the detailed wetlands mitigation plan, and clarify the ability of the local government to deal with the induced growth resulting from this project. An explanation of the EPA rating system for draft EISs is enclosed for your reference. This rating and a summary of these comments will be published in the Federal Register. Our environmental concerns are discussed in more detail in the enclosed detailed review comments.

Specific responses to EPA's detailed review comments are provided on the following pages.

We appreciate the opportunity to review and provide comments on this draft EIS. If you have any questions about our comments you may contact Sally Brough in our Environmental Evaluation Branch at (206) 553-4012 or (FTS) 399-4012.

Sincerely,



Ronald A. Lee, Chief
Environmental Evaluation Branch

Enclosures

Thank you for your review and comments.

**ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
DETAILED REVIEW COMMENTS
MILLTOWN HILL PROJECT**

Water Quality

1. The 1988 Oregon Statewide Assessment of Nonpoint Sources of Water Pollution has identified Elk Creek as a stream segment with beneficial use impairment. This report identifies severe and moderate water quality conditions affecting fish, aquatic habitat, and water contact recreation. The draft EIS indicates that the major water quality problems involve elevated temperatures, low dissolved oxygen, suspended sediments, fecal coliform bacteria from septic systems, various trace metals, pH, nutrient levels, and color. The causes of these water quality problems are agriculture (return flows), municipal point sources (sewage effluent), and nonpoint sources (septic tanks and drain field systems).

2. One of the stated purposes of the proposed dam is to provide water storage and distribution for municipal expansion and industrial diversification. Another purpose is to provide irrigation water. The proposed dam will allow and encourage greater municipal, commercial, industrial, and agricultural (irrigation) water use through the year 2030. However, it would appear that the dam could bring about growth in the activities that are currently causing the existing water quality problems. Initially, the stored water that would be released during the low flow periods would improve water quality and fish habitat. Our concern is that the improved water quality will not be maintained over time as the towns in the subbasin grow (sewage effluent), the rural population grows (septic tanks and drain fields), irrigation increases over current levels (return flows), and industrial and commercial diversification occurs.

3. The final EIS needs to provide a quantitative analysis of the effects of secondary/induced growth in agriculture, municipal expansion, industrial and commercial diversification, and general population growth. We concur with the efforts to improve the water quality of Elk Creek and improve fish habitat but the final EIS needs to document that the proposed project will not create similar water quality problems in the future.

Fishery Effects

4. The American Fisheries Society (AFS) has published an article that lists depleted Pacific salmon stocks (Nehlsen et al. 1991). The list includes Umpqua River coho and chum salmon, searun cutthroat trout and Elk Creek coho salmon. The AFS document identifies the Umpqua River coho salmon as a population with a moderate risk of extinction, the Umpqua River chum salmon with a high risk of extinction, the Elk Creek coho with a moderate risk of extinction, and searun cutthroat with a moderate risk of extinction. Decline in Umpqua River native stocks was attributed to "the present or threatened destruction, modification, or curtailment of its habitat or range". (In addition to habitat damage, this category includes mainstem passage and flow problems, and predation during reservoir passage). "In addition, coho salmon were identified as having a high probability of introgression with hatchery stocks." The conclusions in the AFS publication are based on existing data from state and

1. The causes of water quality problems in Elk Creek involve more than agriculture and point and non-point sources. Even without point and non-point sources, water quality would be poor because of the high ambient air temperatures and natural low to no flow conditions in Elk Creek during summer months. Various land use practices have also caused high sediment load. There is no evidence that irrigation return flows have impaired water quality, although sewage effluent has exacerbated the problems caused by high ambient temperatures and low summer flows.

2. Reclamation believes that the major causes of water quality problems are the lack of flows and high ambient temperatures. The flows will be increased considerably over the present summer flows. Increased flows will decrease water temperatures and dilute pollutants. Induced growth in agriculture, municipal population, and industrial diversification will be governed by the amount of project water apportioned for these benefitting entities. See response #3 below.

3. The project will produce water flows that will improve existing water quality (temperature) and water quantity (low flows) problems. Apportioned water uses during the life of the project will prevent the recurrence of existing water problems. See response #2 above. For secondary/indirect effects see #11 below.

4. The ODFW, USFWS, and NMFS have agreed that the project will have net benefits to anadromous fish, such as winter steelhead, coho salmon, and cutthroat trout. The primary benefit is provision of substantially increased flow where flow has been virtually non-existent during summer months. Water that has been available has been in excess of 70°F, but will be substantially cooler under project operation. There are no chum salmon in Elk Creek and they are not known to have used Elk Creek. Substantial habitat improvements will also occur.

Federal agencies with jurisdiction and the findings could have a bearing on the decision evaluated in the final EIS.

We are concerned that all aspects of the proposed action are rigorously evaluated so that the identified stocks in the Umpqua River and Elk Creek are not adversely affected. Based on our review of the draft EIS, we have a number of questions and concerns about the effects of the dam on anadromous and resident fish populations. Additional information is needed to clarify a number of issues.

5. The final EIS should clarify whether the tributaries above the dam are designated as protected areas by the Northwest Power Planning Council for protection of anadromous fish populations. The significance and ramifications of this designation warrants discussion in the final EIS.
6. A detailed description is needed of where spawning and rearing occurs both above the dam and below the dam. How much and what kind of existing habitat is located in the 6.5 miles of mainstem and tributaries above the dam? Below the dam, does spawning occur in the mainstem or in the tributaries? Where is rearing habitat?
7. With regard to the placement of gravel as a mitigation measure, why is there a lack of gravel in the system? Does spawning occur in the mainstem where the gravel will be placed or do the tributaries have the majority of the spawning habitat? The dam will further decrease gravel input into the system, will gravel placement be a long term mitigation measure rather than a one time event?
8. The draft EIS indicates that over 90 percent of total anadromous fish production occurs in the tributaries. Which tributaries will be affected by dam construction? What are the temperature regimes of the tributaries and do the tributaries represent important thermal refuge during the summer and fall?
9. Changes in the flow regime (storing water in late fall, winter, and early spring) could adversely affect juvenile outmigration and adult spawning. The final EIS should present the run times/fish life history for each of the different anadromous species found in Elk Creek and correlate this information with the changes in flow once the dam is built. The cooler water and increased flows would improve rearing habitat on the mainstem of Elk Creek below the dam. Is this where rearing naturally occurs?
10. The draft EIS identifies supplementation of existing populations with juvenile presmolts as a mitigation measure. The AFS article indicates that the declines in coho stocks are partly due to introgression. Hatchery production has been implicated in native population declines through hybridization and introgression (expression of deleterious and lethal genes), competition, disease, and overharvest in mixed stock fisheries. Since the existing native coho stocks are already depleted the population may not be

5. The Northwest Power Planning Council (NPPC) list of protected areas has no bearing on this project. The NPPC is concerned about new hydropower projects. This is not a hydropower project and no storage is allocated for this purpose.
6. More information on spawning and rearing locations have been included in the FEIS. A small percentage (<10%) of the spawning occurs above the damsite based on previous estimates of ODFW. Some rearing occurs above the damsite, but the lack of water and high summer water temperatures cause juvenile fish to move downstream and eventually to the Umpqua River. Most of the spawning for coho and winter steelhead occurs in the tributaries, while the chinook spawn in lower Elk Creek.
7. There is a natural lack of gravels in the system due to existing geological conditions in the area. Some gravels are found at various locations upstream and downstream of the project. Although the dam will decrease gravel input to a minor degree, there are no deposits for a considerable distance below the proposed damsite. Most spawning occurs in the tributary streams below the project. The project would not significantly adversely affect tributary streams, but would benefit the mainstem with the addition of gravel. Gravel placement will be a long-term measure depending on the results of monitoring. Any mitigation planned will be monitored. Plans will also be flexible to take into account results of the monitoring.
8. There are three main tributaries upstream of the damsite. Walker Creek has a barrier at the mouth; Lane Creek and Shingle Mill are the other two. Both have minimal flow (<1 cfs) during summer months. Neither of these tributaries would provide significant thermal refuge.
9. The changes in flow regime will benefit rearing of all species, including resident trout in mainstem Elk Creek. Presently, rearing is low to non-existent due to low flows and high water temperatures which are partially responsible for the low number of fish.
10. Supplementation has been considered for coho and winter steelhead (See: page 3-63 in the DEIS). Fish that return to the base of the dam at Elk Creek would be captured, spawned, and the eggs incubated at a hatchery. These same fry, juveniles, or smolts would be returned to Elk Creek. The details, including feasibility, will be provided in the fisheries mitigation, enhancement, and monitoring report. See response #42 to ODFW letter on page 29.

large enough to ensure genetic integrity. The final EIS should thoroughly evaluate the effects of hatchery fish on the native Elk Creek stocks.

Indirect Effects

11. The Council of Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA state that the environmental consequences section of an EIS should include: "Indirect effects and their significance (40 CFR 1502.16(b))." Indirect effects are defined as "...caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable. Indirect effects may include growth-inducing effects related to induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density or growth rate, and related effects on air and water and other natural systems, including ecosystems." (40 CFR 1508.9(b)). The CEQ regulations also indicate that the EIS should include the "means to mitigate adverse environmental effects." (40 CFR 1502.16(h)). This provision applies to indirect effects as well as direct effects.

The draft EIS states that the economy of the area is not likely to improve without industrial and economic diversity. The biggest barrier to diversity and growth in the study area is the lack of an adequate year-round water supply. One of the stated goals and objectives of this project is to store and supply adequate amounts of water for municipal expansion, industrial diversification, and improved agricultural development. Providing an adequate year-round water supply would contribute to induced residential, commercial, and industrial growth and increase the rate of growth in the study area. By definition these types of changes constitute indirect effects and should be fully evaluated in the EIS. Induced residential, commercial, and industrial growth can adversely affect water quality, wetlands, and other natural resources. Indirect effects and appropriate mitigation measures must be described in the final EIS.

12. The draft EIS briefly discusses secondary impacts. The secondary impacts are listed and the draft EIS concludes that the secondary impacts will be long term and insignificant. No basis for this conclusion is provided. The final EIS should provide the details of the induced growth/development scenario that was used to determine that the secondary impacts listed on page 3-100 will be insignificant.

13. How does the EIS reviewer know that the increase in need for public services will be readily absorbed by local and county agencies? Does a mechanism exist for the county to restrict pesticide and herbicide use, rural homesite construction, and mercury mining? Who would be responsible for the needed improvements in the solid waste disposal program when the population increases? How would these solid waste improvements be financed? Once residential, commercial, and industrial development occurs, does the county currently have development plans and building codes that would protect existing wetlands, floodplains, wildlife habitat, and water quality? Do Douglas County, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries Service, and District 15 Watermaster have adequate

11. Indirect effects were addressed in various sections of the DEIS, as appropriate, but were not identified as "indirect effects". FEIS (See: Section 3.1.28 in the FEIS) has been revised to discuss indirect effects.

12. We considered secondary impacts and indirect effects to be synonymous. Indirect impacts were addressed in more detail throughout respective sections of the DEIS. The intent of Section 3.1.28 on page 3-100 was to simply list the indirect impacts rather than provide a redundant analysis that was provided throughout the DEIS. This section has been revised.

13. During the process of planning and data gathering, local and county agencies became aware of the probable problems resulting from project-induced impacts to public services. None of these agencies indicated that the possibility may exist that future public service problems could not be properly addressed as they developed. Douglas County has a comprehensive land use plan approved by the Department of Land Conservation and Development. The plan contains environmental overlays to protect resources and identifies the proposed Milltown Hill damsite as a potential water impoundment site. Douglas County would be responsible for budgeting funds to improve and increase services as needed under project development. Douglas County will be responsible for monitoring the anadromous fish mitigation and enhancement efforts. The water master presently monitors water use, and his office is in the same Douglas County office that is occupied by the County Department (Douglas County Water Resources Survey) responsible for project monitoring. They have established a close working relationship. The FEIS has been revised to reflect these changes. Also, see response #11 above.

funding and staff to support the additional monitoring and coordination needed for the anadromous fishery enhancement portion of the project?

14. One could argue that indirect effects could be dealt with in the future when more specific information is known. However, for this proposal, induced growth could result in reasonably foreseeable adverse effects to surface water quality, habitat, wetlands, and social/economic services. Since the CEO regulations require an analysis of indirect effects the best time to identify these effects is now, when there is better opportunity to prevent or mitigate them.

15. Much of the mitigation for indirect effects is subject to regulation by other agencies/third parties. In this case, those third parties include Douglas County and the three incorporated cities: Elktion, Drain, and Yoncalla. The EIS can serve the function of offering these third parties adequate notice of the expected consequences and the opportunity to plan and implement corrective measures, if needed, in a timely manner.

16. The analysis of indirect effects should not rely solely on compliance with existing comprehensive land use plans. Although comprehensive land use plans are an important component of the analysis of indirect effects, these plans could result in adverse environmental effects. The comprehensive land use planning process does not necessarily evaluate environmental effects. The EIS should present the local land use controls that affect or regulate new development and discuss whether they could mitigate potential adverse environmental effects. If this analysis occurs before the dam is completed, the city and county will be in a better position to effectively plan for future growth and develop mitigation measures for the impacts resulting from induced growth.

Wetlands

Wetlands are significant environmental resources that provide a wide range of important functions and values. They have experienced severe cumulative losses nationally. For these reasons protection of wetlands is a top priority of EPA. Although the draft EIS shows the location of affected wetlands and their aerial extent, the final EIS should also discuss the functions and values of the wetlands and any unique or special features of the affected wetlands. Once the functional importance of the wetlands are defined, the possibilities for mitigation of potential impacts to these functions can be explored. Unique features may be particularly difficult to mitigate. The key is that the functions and values of the wetlands are the concern, not merely "acre-for-acre" mitigation.

17. For those wetland impacts which are unavoidable, we recommend that a detailed compensation plan be developed and included in the final EIS. The compensation plan should include consideration of both direct, indirect, and cumulative effects. It should contain a statement of goals, a monitoring element, long-term management/protection objectives and a contingency plan (a commitment to conduct additional work if required to meet the goals of the plan).

14. See response #11 above.

15. The Milltown Hill project is proposed by Douglas County. The County is working closely with the incorporated cities as well as the unincorporated area to assure proper planning.

16. The Comprehensive Plan for Douglas County has been approved by the State. In Oregon, evaluation of environmental effect is a major consideration for planning purposes. In addition, uncontrolled development is not allowed (see previous response).

17. The 31 acres of wetlands that will be inundated by the reservoir are considered to be of low functional value because of lack of ponding, sparse vegetative growth, and the drying up of the areas by spring or early summer. These do not appear to have any unique features. By contrast, the project will provide considerable more shoreline than now exists and 23 acres of ponds in the south end that will be shown to be of higher quality. As part of the Section 404 permit, Douglas County will prepare a detailed mitigation plan for the impact on wetlands. This plan will be prepared with input from ODFW, USFWS, Corps of Engineers and EPA.

18. EPA would like to be involved in the development of the detailed mitigation plan for the affected wetlands. We suggest that the Bureau of Reclamation meet with the resource agencies, including EPA, to discuss development of a detailed mitigation plan for inclusion in the final EIS. Tom Robertson, our wetlands specialist in the EPA Oregon Operations Office can be contacted at FTS 423-7024 or (503) 326-7024 to coordinate the wetland aspects of this project.

Mitigation

19. A comprehensive discussion of proposed mitigation for direct, indirect and cumulative impacts is required by the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA. The CEQ regulations indicate that an EIS should include the means to mitigate adverse environmental effects (40 CFR 1508.7) as well as disclose the effectiveness of the mitigation measures to minimize adverse effects. Numerous judicial reviews of NEPA cases have supported this need for identifying mitigation measures and discussing their effectiveness.

Mitigation effectiveness is not included in the discussions in the draft EIS. The final EIS needs to provide a quantitative (if possible) or qualitative description of the site specific effectiveness of the mitigation measures presented in the draft EIS.

Monitoring

20. The EIS should include a discussion of monitoring for each resource category, that has been determined to be significant through the scoping process, including fisheries and water quality. A well designed monitoring plan should demonstrate how well the preferred alternative resolves the issues and concerns identified during scoping. The draft EIS does not contain a detailed monitoring plan.

A comprehensive monitoring plan will measure the effectiveness of the mitigation measures to control or minimize potential adverse effects. A detailed monitoring plan is warranted since this is a site specific project level document. The monitoring plan should include types of surveys, location and frequency of sampling, parameters to be monitored, indicator species, budget, procedures for using data or results in plan implementation, and availability of results to interested and affected groups.

21. The final EIS should describe the feedback mechanism which uses the monitoring results to adjust standards and guidelines, best management practices, standard operating procedures, intensity of monitoring, and project administration when adverse effects are first detected. Providing such a process for adjustment will ensure that mitigation will improve in the future and that unforeseen adverse effects are recognized and minimized.

18. The wetland mitigation plan has generally been accepted by ODFW and USFWS. The detailed plan will be coordinated with these agencies and with EPA and the Corps. See previous response.

19. Mitigation has been addressed for all natural resources except forestry (Sag: Environmental Commitments, Appendix B). The loss of forest land is difficult, if not impossible to mitigate. For other primary resources, such as Columbian white-tailed deer, wetlands, fisheries, and wildlife, Reclamation was able to identify measures to mitigate impacts and to enhance resources. These have been quantified in terms of loss and amount gained or by description of actions that Douglas County will be required to implement as environmental commitments. Most of the discussion concerning mitigation have been occurring for several years among Reclamation, Douglas County, USFWS, NMFS, and ODFW. A mitigation, enhancement, and monitoring plan will be developed by Douglas County in consultation with resource agencies. The plan will be prepared prior to and during early construction. Statements concerning the anticipated effectiveness of the proposed mitigation measures were included in the draft and final EIS.

20. Detailed monitoring plans will be prepared by Douglas County for all pertinent resource categories, including fisheries and water quality. The plans are necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of the project mitigation and enhancement efforts and it will be used to guide decisions in mitigation and enhancement efforts. The monitoring plan will contain various elements some of which are cited by EPA. Preparation and implementation of monitoring plans have been included as environmental commitments in the draft and final EIS. See response #1 to NMFS letters, on page 39.

21. Douglas County views the monitoring plan to be the primary method to evaluate effectiveness of mitigation and enhancement. The unpredictability of natural systems (because we do not know all the variables affecting a given resource) makes it imperative that flexibility be a part of the program. Consequently, for at least the first few years of project operation, there will be a week to week, if not day to day, interaction with the local District Biologist at ODFW. This has been the practice at the County's Galesville Reservoir and has resulted in a good relationship between the County and ODFW.

SUMMARY OF THE EPA RATING SYSTEM
FOR DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENTS:
DEFINITIONS AND FOLLOW-UP ACTION *

Environmental Impact of the Action

LO--Lack of Objections

The EPA review has not identified any potential environmental impacts requiring substantive changes to the proposal. The review may have disclosed opportunities for application of mitigation measures that could be accomplished with no more than minor changes to the proposal.

EC--Environmental Concerns

The EPA review has identified environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to fully protect the environment. Corrective measures may require changes to the preferred alternative or application of mitigation measures that can reduce the environmental impact. EPA intends to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts.

EO--Environmental Objections

The EPA review has identified significant environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to provide adequate protection for the environment. Corrective measures may require substantive changes to the preferred alternative or consideration of some other project alternative (including the no-action alternative or a new alternative). EPA intends to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts.

EU--Environmentally Unsatisfactory

The EPA review has identified adverse environmental impacts that are of sufficient magnitude that they are unsatisfactory from the standpoint of public health or welfare or environmental quality. EPA intends to work with the lead agency to reduce these impacts. If the potential unsatisfactory impacts are not corrected at the final EIS stage, this proposal will be recommended for referral to the CEO.

Adequacy of the Impact Statement

Category 1--Adequate

EPA believes the draft EIS adequately sets forth the environmental impact(s) of the preferred alternative and those of the alternatives reasonably available to the project or action. No further analysis of data collection is necessary, but the reviewer may suggest the addition of clarifying language or information.

Category 2--Insufficient Information

The draft EIS does not contain sufficient information for EPA to fully assess environmental impacts that should be avoided in order to fully protect the environment, or the EPA reviewer has identified new reasonably available alternatives that are within the spectrum of alternatives analyzed in the draft EIS, which could reduce the environmental impacts of the action. The identified additional information, data, analyses, or discussion should be included in the final EIS.

Category 3--Inadequate

EPA does not believe that the draft EIS adequately assesses potentially significant environmental impacts of the action, or the EPA reviewer has identified new, reasonably available alternatives that are outside of the spectrum of alternatives analyzed in the draft EIS, which should be analyzed in order to reduce the potentially significant environmental impacts. EPA believes that the identified additional information, data, analyses, or discussions are of such a magnitude that they should have full public review at a draft stage. EPA does not believe that the draft EIS is adequate for the purposes of the NEPA and/or Section 309 review, and thus should be formally revised and made available for public comment in a supplemental or revised draft EIS. On the basis of the potentially significant impacts involved, this proposal could be a candidate for referral to the CEO.

* From EPA Manual 1600 Policy and Procedures for the Review of Federal Actions Impacting the Environment
February, 1997

Appendix H
Acronyms

ACRONYMS

AAHU	- average annual habitat units
BEA	- Bureau of Economic Analysis
BLM	- Bureau of Land Management
BM	- Bureau of Mines
CEQ	- Council on Environmental Quality
CFS	- cubic feet per second
COE	- Corps of Engineers
GPCPD	- Gallons per capita per day
DCWRS	- Douglas County Water Resources Survey
EIS	- Environmental Impact Statement
EO	- Executive Order
EPA	- Environmental Protection Agency
ESA	- Endangered Species Act of 1970
FIA	- Federal Insurance Administration
ft ³ /s	- Cubic feet per second
g	- gravity
GS	- Geological Survey
HEP	- Habitat Evaluation Procedure
HSI	- Habitat Suitability Index
IFIM	- Instream flow incremental methodology
mg/l	- milligrams per liter
M&I	- Municipal and industrial (water)
m	- meter
MFP	- Management Framework Plan
MILS	- Mineral Industry Location System
MOA	- Memorandum of agreement
MOU	- Memorandum of understanding
MSL	- mean sea level
NEPA	- National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
NMFS	- National Marine Fisheries Service
NPS	- National Park Service
O&C	- Oregon and California revested lands
ODEQ	- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
ODF	- Oregon Department of Forestry
ODFW	- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
ODLCD	- Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development
ODOT	- Oregon Department of Transportation
ODWR	- Oregon Department of Water Resources
ppb	- parts per billion
ppm	- parts per million
PSD	- Prevention of Significant Deterioration
RCC	- Roller-compacted concrete
RM	- river mile
RVI	- relative value index
SCS	- Soil Conservation Service
SHPO	- State Historic Preservation Office
SMSA	- Standard metropolitan statistical areas

